Volume XVIII, Issue No. 109 www.saipantribune.com 50¢



### OPINION METER

### This week's poll:

Should the CNMI grant improved immigration status to long-term alien workers?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

### INSIDE



Winning Bet

Hillary Rodham Clinton said emphatically Wednesday night that Barack Obama can win the White House.

NATION...Page 22

### Stadium Opens

Quietly and without fanfare, Chinese officials have opened the National Stadium-nicknamed the "Bird's Nest"-and it's ready to hatch its first sports event.

ASIA...Page 24



### Carlsberg Launch

The invitation promised "sumptuous pupus, light entertainment, a superior sunset & the crisp taste of Carlsberg." I couldn't resist.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 31

TaoTao Tano calls for governor's resignation. PAGE 3 CNMI seeks \$1.1M grant for govt desk audit. **PAGE 7** 

# **CUC: No massive blackout**



Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony C. Guerrero answers a question from Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider during Thursday's emergency meeting with members of the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means and CUC at the House Chamber on Capital Hill.

# Torres' accusatory speeches draw fire

By AGNES E. DONATO

Senate President Pete P. Reyes has slammed a lawmaker for his stinging speeches on the House

Reyes said Wednesday Torres that he was disappointed in the tone and content of some



of the recent floor speeches delivered Rep. Stanley T. Torres. The House

member's recent speeches have been mostly accusatory.

See TORRES on Page 4

agnes donato@saipantribune.com

he Commonwealth Utilities Corp. says there is no truth to the rumor that Saipan will have a delivered for Saipan's power massive blackout this weekend.

**RELATED NEWS CUC** implements another power rotation. **PAGE 5** 

ecutive director Anthony Guerrero has told legislative committee that

some 3,500 barrels of fuel were See CUC on Page 4



### 2ND AWAODORI FESTIVAL

Visiting members of the Tensuiren, Awa Odori Traditional Dance Group from Ko-Enji, Tokyo, Japan, and kids of Koblerville Youth Center dance the Awa Odori as they parade from DFS store all the way to the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan for the 2nd Awa Odori Festival celebration late yesterday afternoon.

# Mystery of flu strains' origins solved



By THOMAS H. MAUGH II

(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Solving a 60-year-old mystery. researchers have concluded that new flu strains emerge in eastern and southeastern Asia, move to Europe and North America See MYSTERY on Page 4

This undated graphic provided by the journal Science shows the path of seasonal influenza A (H3N2) strains that constantly evolve in overlapping epidemics in East and Southeast Asia, which periodically spread to the

## Reyes perplexed with veto

By AGNES E. DONATO agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com

ing layoffs.

The Senate has echoed the lower chamber's disappointment with the governor's veto of a bill that would have allowed the government to deal with declining revenues and pend-reasons for disapproving it.



President Pete P. Reyes on Wednesday listed the merits of the bill and challenged the administration's

See REYES on Page 4

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2 FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Local



AWAODORI DANCE

ACQUELINE HERNANDE

Visiting members of the Tensuiren, Awa Odori Traditional Dance Group from Ko-Enji, Tokyo, Japan, and children from the Koblerville Youth Center gather for a photo with the man'amko after performing the Awa Odori dance at the Aging Office in Garapan yesterday morning. The event is part of the Paseo de Marianas Promoters Inc's 2nd Awa Odori Festival.

# **Trades school being organized**

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR

A group led by businessman Anthony Pellegrino wants to establish a trades school that will train local residents on how to become carpenters, electricians, and plumbers, among other jobs.

Called the Marianas Trades Institute, the school will be a non-profit entity and will be organized starting next month to train local residents to become skilled tradesmen.

"As the nonresident labor force slowly returns to its respective countries, a dire need arises to have our local work-force fill the vacancies. It is expected that the first classes will begin in July 2008," according to the group.

The courses will be open to males and females, but each student must be at least 18 years old. Upon graduation from the trades institute, the student will be fully qualified to enter the trade of his choice as a skilled tradesman and earn a high paying salary.

Setup costs for Marianas Trades Institute is \$100,000, which is expected to cover salaries of instructors employed on contract on a part-time basis and to purchase materials to be used in the classrooms.

According to the group, all students will enter an apprenticeship program lasting several years depending on the trade selected and the time required to complete the course.

As each student progresses in his studies, he will be tested and graded before he moves up to the part level

All students selected must be working. If they are not employed, Marianas Trades Institute will help find them a job while attending school. The group said the job need not be in the respective trade selected "though it would be wise to have one in that trade."

During the day, students at Marianas Trades Institute will work and in the evening will attend classes at least two nights a week.

Each evening class will run for two and a half hours for a total of five hours per week. "In this manner the student learns on the job. In the evening, he studies the academic portion of his trade under a professional instructor in a classroom," the group said.

The group said no prior qualifications are required such as high school diploma or age for students wanting to enroll. "The only requisite is a strong desire to learn a skilled trade. Students will pay a modest tuition and book fee for each segment of the training."

# Trader claims fraud in failed club venture

A Japanese businessman has sued a businesswoman for allegedly defrauding him in their joint venture to operate a karaoke/nightclub in Garapan.

Hideyuki Kai, through counsel Robert J. O'Connor, sued Jinxia Liu, also known as Coco, for breach of contract, fraud, and conversion.

Kai asked the Superior Court to order the defendant to return his \$16,500 and pay him damages, restitution, court costs, and attorney's fees.

O'Connor stated in the complaint that in April 2006 Kai entered into an oral partnership agreement with Liu to purchase and operate a small karaoke/nightclub in Garapan.

Kai agreed to pay \$16,500 to Liu for her to buy and begin operating the karaoke/nightclub. O'Connor said that Liu represented to plaintiff in 2006 that she would use the money for the karaoke/nightclub.

The lawyer said the two agreed that when the establishment is eventually sold, Kai would receive the entire sales price from the buyer, including any appreciation in value above the \$16,500 sales price.

Kai allegedly transmitted the \$16,500 to Liu between April and September 2006.

O'Connor said the defendant did not use any of these funds to acquire or operate a karaoke/nightclub but instead defrauded him by converting the money for her own personal use.

The defendant allegedly then refused to return the money. *(Ferdie de la Torre)* 

# **DES proud of Science Fair champs**

Dandan Elementary School is very proud of its participants in the first ever PSS/CNMI-wide Science Fair Competition.

All four DES participants came away winners in their category.

Naomi Lizama, a third grader from Ms. Church's class, won the overall for K-3rd Category.

Joshua Mostales, Joshua Mendiola, and Jeffery Centino (2008 Spelling Bee Top 10 Speller in Guam) also won awards at the competition.

"As the principal of DES, I must admit that our kids are doing very well academically. I am so proud of our students for their hard work and for bringing home

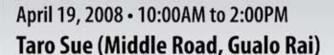
the pride and joy. It sure puts us on the spotlight when our kids shine in any competition," said DES principal Jonas Barcinas.

He stressed that DES focuses highly on academics because of the AYP that the school is required to meet as a school "but we also want our students to be well rounded in each subject. No child is left behind with such opportunity."

Barcinas expressed his thanks to the school's leadership team—Mercedes DL Guerrero, Kate Borja, Charina Hocog, their parents, teachers—for their support in one way or another.

See DES on Page 4

# **Saturday Sale!**





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## TaoTao Tano calls for governor's resignation

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

The TaoTao Tano CNMI Association is rounding up a signature drive that seeks the immediate resignation of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and majority of his Cabinet members.

In a statement released yesterday, Cruz said that it is time for the governor to step down because the "entire people of the Commonwealth have all suffered enough."

"The federal government has passed a federal control of our immigration simply because of our current administration. Everyone in our homeland knows the whole story of why we are federalized," Cruz said.

He also accused the federal government of "oppressing the innocent people of the Commonwealth simply because of the past histories of the Administration and his constituents" and accusing the legislative body for being "uncooperative" since the day the Fitial administration stepped into office.

Press secretary Charles P.

Reyes Jr. brushed off the signature drive, saying that Cruz was trying to apply for a job at the Governor's Office but was told that there were no funds to hire him.

"Right after that, his attitude toward us seemed to have changed drastically. I'm a little bit concerned that maybe this is because we didn't hire him," Reves said.

He also pointed out that in the beginning Cruz was "very supportive" of federalization but seemed to have changed his stance after his application was not accepted.

In his statement, Cruz said that the people of the CNMI are "in an economic crisis and there is no light at the end of the tunnel, except for a cliff. Our entire infrastructure, public service, public safety, social well-being, health and our children's education is in jeopardy and the administration remains optimistic, arrogant, ignorant and selfish, to include the government [being] broke for the third year, affecting everyone's general well being."

Reyes explained that "the

governor is presiding over the implosion of the CNMI garment industry and other challenges that began even before he was sworn into office. He has no control over federalization or federal minimum wage hikes. He has no control over the record rise in fuel prices. He is not responsible for the withdrawal of Japan Airlines in 2005 and he rejected Public Law 15-94, and his attempt to privatize CUC was derailed, through no fault of his own."

He added that throughout Fitial's term as governor, "[he] has been realistic and financially disciplined, making many difficult but necessary decisions. He is staying the course and leading during the CNMI's most difficult period."

He said the administration is very sorry that it was not able to employ Cruz and hopes that he will not take it personally. "I truly hope it's not a reflection of our inability to hire him. We do sympathize with his concerns. But we are going through a very difficult time and we never said otherwise," Reyes said.

The factual basis of the plea

agreement stated that on May 31,

2006, San Nicolas, at that time 39

years old, molested a 12-year-old

also molested another 12-year-

old boy. (Ferdie de la Torre)

### Ex-baseball coach pleads guilty to abuse of minors

A former baseball coach pleaded guilty yesterday to charges that he sexually abused and assaulted two minors.

Ramon Camacho San Nicolas, 41, pleaded guilty to one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and one count of sexual assault in the second degree.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman accepted San Nicolas' guilty plea and set the sentencing for July 10, 2008, at 9:30am.

Wiseman directed the Adult Probation Office to prepare a presentence investigation report.

fice filed in June 2006 an information charging the defendant with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and two counts of sexual assault in the second degree.

San Nicolas and counsel Herbert D. Soll signed a plea agreement with the government, represented by assistant attorney general Rebecca Warfield.

According to the plea agreement, San Nicolas will be sentenced to a maximum of eight years in prison and a maximum \$50,000 fine.

The court will determine the term of imprisonment within

## The Attorney General's Ofthat range. Introducing hot water free from the sun · Solahart tank will withstand near boiling All Solahart tanks have an internal double layer ceramic lining, applied water over the lifetime of the tank, something after all fabrication work on the tank that ordinary water heaters cannot withstand. is complete to ensure tank integrity. • You will always have hot water 24 hours a Solahart does not use stainless steel day even on the cloudiest days. which can be corroded, or copper, which cannot withstand high chlorine levels. For more information, pls. call.

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### CUC

From Page 1

plant yesterday.

The delivery, combined with what CUC has in stock, is expected to last until next weekend.

Speaking before the House Committee on Ways and Means yesterday, Guerrero said that CUC was able to collect enough money from customers over the past few days to pay for the fuel purchase.

Tinian and Rota also have nothing to worry about in terms of power service—at least for now.

According to Guerrero, Tinian has enough fuel to last 11 days and Rota has a week's supply left.

But both islands must prepare for rotating power outages similar to what Saipan has been experiencing for months. He said CUC plans to "spread the burden" among the three main islands.

Guerrero assured lawmakers that, despite the lack of funds to buy fuel, a power blackout is the last option for CUC.

"We will exhaust every effort before turning the lights off on the entire island. Our concern is not only about power service, but also water," he said.

Because all of CUC's collections are going to the cost of fuel, other vendors will have to wait longer to be paid, Guerrero said.

In related news, the Fitial administration revealed vesterday that the central government has made advance utility payments until July 2008.

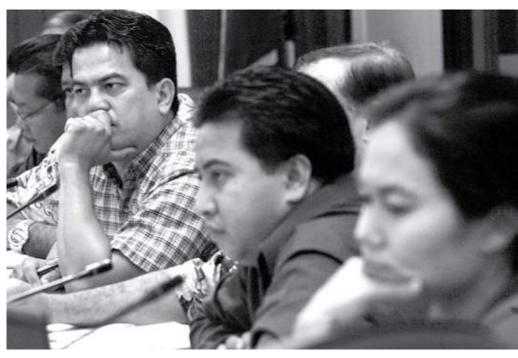
From October 2007 to date, the CNMI government has paid \$7.5 million to CUC, covering 10 months of utility consumption.

The paid amount represents the government's budget for utility for the entire fiscal year. This means that the government will have no more money to pay for its CUC bills for August and September.

House committee that about \$1.5 million needs to be reprogrammed to the

Finance Secretary Eloy Inos told the utility expense account, so the government can pay for the two remaining months.

"If not, the lights will go out on the government, including this building [Legislature]," Inos said.



House Committee on Ways and Means chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul and other members listen during an emergency meeting with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. at the House Chamber on Capital Hill Thursday. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

### REYES

From Page 1

"Your veto of [House Bill] 16-83, HD5 was a disappointment to the Senate, as what could have been held up to the people of the Commonwealth as an example of cooperation and a substantive step toward prudent fiscal reform has been rebuffed," said Reyes, who abstained when the Senate was voting on the bill.

Reyes noted that the Legislature did not remove any relief measures found in the original draft of the bill, as submitted by the administration. He added that the Legislature even improved the bill by adding provisions to bring accountability to their implementation.

"While the Senate agrees on the importance of efforts by your administration to prevent the loss of jobs to some government employees, the paramount concern of the Senate with respect to the intent and enactment of H.B. 16-83, HD5, is to avoid any tragic disruption in the delivery of essential public services, while striving to provide for better accountability and greater transparency in the management of the Commonwealth's fiscal affairs," he said.

The Senate president questioned the administration's objection to the provision of the bill that grants additional reprogramming power to the governor.

He said the provision was almost verbatim to a prior law which had taken effect, and later expired, with the administration voicing no confusion about its terminology or application.

Reyes disagreed with the administration's concerns about the provision exempting federally funded employees from the 72-hour pay period, if the work-hour reduction is "substantially likely to result in a loss of federal funding." He said the main intent is to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of federal grants and to preserve federal funding.

On the suspension of holiday pay, Reyes said it was not necessary to insert a provision suspending double pay

for those required to work on holidays. He said an employee who is required to work on an official holiday and is on a 72-hour schedule per pay period would receive only regular pay, but not holiday pay.

As for the hiring freeze purportedly being too restrictive, Reyes said: "It is contradictory, self-defeating, and unfair to hire new employees when all others must work at reduced hours and pay. This is especially true if the government fills a new position or hires a replacement to fill an existing position at a higher salary than was last paid for that position."

He added that the requirement of joint legislative approve may seem intrusive on hiring by other branches of government. But that has been the practice lately, and hiring authorities have complied with it.

Further, Reyes slammed the administration concern about the 11 percent employer contribution rate for the pension program's defined benefit plan. Twice the Governor's Office has proposed this rate, first in the fiscal year 2008 budget, then in the governor's version of the bill as given to the House for consideration.

The House has made similar comments about the unexpected veto of House Bill 16-83. The House and the Senate rushed the bill to passage at the urging of the administration.

### **TORRES**

From Page 1

"It is not in my place to criticize how the House conducts its business, but rest assured statements such as yours would not be permitted to stand in the Senate. I have every faith that, were I somehow fail to act, my colleagues would have made appropriate motions to strike the offensive language and rebuke the offending speaker," Reyes said in a letter to Torres.

Due mainly to Torres' floor speeches, a legislative initiative has been introduced in the House of Representatives to remove a law protecting lawmakers from being sued for their remarks during legislative proceedings.

Reyes, who is backing the initiative, said the intent is not to silence critics of wrongdoing, but to prevent lawmakers from slandering people.

"If we cannot act and speak with honor and dignity on our own, then perhaps the courts should be able to force a sense of decorum on us," Reyes

Rep. Victor Hocog introduced the initiative following a debate in the House over the appointment of Kimberlyn King-Hinds to the Public Utilities Commission. During that debate, Torres accused King-Hinds of lying to the Legislature about her qualifications and affiliations.

Prior to this incident, Torres delivered speeches containing personal attacks against former Public Safety Commissioner Rebecca Warfield, Attorney General Matthew Gregory, and Assistant Attorney General Mike Nisperos, among others.

Torres has said the initiative was "plain stupidity." He argues that the legislative immunity was put in place "not just to promote candor, [but also] to protect those who would raise uncomfortable questions about government appointments, bring up embarrassing facts about government misdeeds, point out misfeasance by government employees, or simply to challenge the

status quo."

### **MYSTERY**

From Page 1

six to nine months later, then travel to South America, where they disappear

The new findings should help researchers pick the correct flu strains for each year's vaccine, a process that must be carried out a year ahead of time and that is now analogous to making a long-term weather forecast supported by only limited data.

The group charged with making the decisions about vaccines has been right about 80 percent of the time, said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the new findings should lead to an even higher success rate.

"If we have competing candidates, this will help to pick which virus should go in a vaccine," added Dr. Arnold S. Monto, an epidemiologist and flu specialist at the University of Michigan.

Influenza strikes up to 15 percent of the world population each year, killing, on average, about 250,000 to 500,000 people, according to the World Health Organization. About 300 million people annually are protected by an influenza

vaccine, but producing the vaccine is something of a crapshoot because its ingredients are typically chosen nearly a year before the flu season in order to allow time for production.

The problem is that the flu virus mutates rapidly, particularly the gene for a surface protein called hemagglutinin that plays a key role in interacting with the human immune system. Those mutations reduce the efficacy of the immune response to the virus, limiting vaccine protection.

For decades, researchers have debated where these mutations occur. One idea, discredited only about a year ago, suggested that a background infection of the virus remained in each country outside the flu season, allowing mutations to occur.

Other hypotheses were that the virus migrated back and forth between the northern and southern hemispheres following the seasons, that the viruses circulated continuously in the tropics, or that new mutations occurred in China and spread to the rest of the world from

The new results, reported in papers appearing Thursday in the journal Nature and Friday in Science, suggest that there is a little bit of truth in each of those scenarios.

In the Science paper, an international team led by geneticists Colin A. Russell and Derek J. Smith of the University of Cambridge studied more than 13,000 samples of influenza A virus collected on six continents between 2002 and

They studied physical differences in the hemagglutinin molecules on the surfaces of the viruses by measuring how strongly each one bound to an antibody. They also determined the DNA sequence of the hemagglutinin gene for about 10 percent of the viruses.

The team found that once the viruses leave Asia, they don't change much more, and they rarely return. The areas outside Asia are "evolutionary graveyards," Russell said.

In the Nature report, biologist Edward Holmes of Pennsylvania State University and his colleagues sequenced the entire genome of 1,302 influenza A viruses collected over a 12-year period.

Holmes' results were similar to those of the Science team. His team was able to conclude that the viral mutations originated in only one area in the tropics but could not pinpoint the area.

Several factors contribute to Asia's role in the mutations. Although flu

season in the Western world typically occurs in winter, flu season in Asia is generally the rainy season. Because of the wide geographic variations in the region, there is usually a rainy season somewhere, allowing the viruses to propagate continuously.

Add to that the high population density, and the conditions are ripe for a high transmission rate and accompanying mutations.

The large rate of air travel from Asia to Europe and North America then carries the mutated viruses to a new environment where there is little resistance to them. Much less direct traffic occurs between Southeast Asia and South America, so the virus must travel via North America, delaying its passage.

Some of the virus is undoubtedly carried back to Asia via air travel, Smith said, but by that time, widespread immunity to it has built up in the population, and it cannot gain a foothold.

Although the new information will be useful in producing vaccines, Monto said, even more important is the proliferation of new influenza monitoring stations throughout Asia in response to fears of a bird flu pandemic.

Too often, he said, researchers have known which strain should be included in a vaccine but have not been able to obtain a good isolate of the virus. The new monitoring stations should be able to provide those strains, he said.

### DES

From Page 2

"Not just that, the kids did a lot of researching and studying. As young scientists, they amaze me because they truly know their project inside out. They all focus on their project, which focuses on how their project is going to be useful in the CNMI or community," said Barcinas.

Just before the event, Barcinas said he and vice principal Kintol brought the four students into the office to prep them about what to expect during judging time.

"We tried to help them to be mindful, mentally alert, and be calm when talking to the judges. We told them that we know they are going to do well but if not, we are still going to be proud of them for representing our school, The Home of the Tottot."

# **CUC** implements another power rotation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday implemented another load shedding due to repairs being conducted on two power engines at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base.

This developed as CUC was

able to purchase yesterday 3,500 barrels of fuel for the continued operation of Power Plant 1.

According to Power Division acting manager Gary P. Camacho, the load shedding took effect yesterday due to engine No. 3 being off-line due to turbocharger and cylinder repairs.

He said the repairs are expect-

ed to be completed yesterday.

Last night, power engine No. 8 was also scheduled to be taken offline for the exhaust and cylinder repairs.

Camacho said that repairs on engine No. 8 is expected to be completed today, Friday.

"Should there be additional emergency repairs requiring an

engine to be taken offline, the current power outage schedule will continue to be in effect," he said.

The power rotation schedule yesterday was similar to the one CUC implemented on Wednesday.

From 8am to 10am, the outage affected Beach Road Garapan at Kristo Rai Church south to San Jose intersection.

From 10am to 12pm, affected

areas were Joeten Commercial Complex in Dandan, Kannat Tabla, Standford Hotel area, streets in Upper China Town, Upper Miha in Garapan, and Taro Sue to portions of China Town.

From 12pm to 2pm, the outage was in portions of Capital Hill, Kagman, and Papago.

From 2pm to 4pm, the entire grid of feeder 7 or the areas in Lower Base, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi had no power.

From 4pm to 6pm the scheduled outage was in Lower Dandan, Isley Field, CPA/airport, and As Perdido.

From 6pm to 8pm, the blackout was set at Mount Carmel south to portions of Chalan

From 8pm to 10pm, the outage schedule was in Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio, and Afetnas.



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### **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan, MP 96950



### INVITATION FOR BIDS **DPW08-IFB-015**

### **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Collateral Equipment** for the Rota Health Center (Medical-Non-Medical & Dental)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Collateral Equipments for Rota Health Center, Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after April 17, 2008 at Quick Print and Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Quick Print and Post, in the amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" , as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on May 7, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. local time at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room, Rota. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 21, 2008 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director, Technical Services Division, DPW Oleai Commercial Center or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW08-IFB-015". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 27, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 27, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 27, 2008, and must be received no later than June 5, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 10, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a,m, local time, on May 30, 2008,

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

This project is funding derived from CNMI Public Law 12-64 § 5(a), and Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution (RLDR) 15-12, D1 FY 2001.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred and fifty dollars (US \$150.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIFGO B SONGSONG Acting, Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director of Procurement and Supply

# Family Outlet

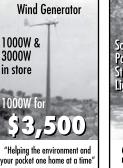
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# Filing of Miura petition for habeas corpus extended

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The defense team of Japanese businessman Kazuvoshi Miura and the Attorney General's Office yesterday agreed to request the Superior Court to allow a two-week extension for Miura to file his petition for habeas corpus.

Following the stipulation by the parties in the case, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the request yesterday afternoon.

Miura's counsel, Bruce Berline, and chief prosecutor

Jeffery Warfield Sr. agreed to the extension due to a hearing in the Los Angeles Superior Court next week, April 23.

In the stipulation, Berline and Warfield said the April 23 hearing is about Miura's motion to quash the underlying California arrest warrant in the L.A. Superior Court.

The lawyers said a ruling from that motion "may be dispositive" of the extradition matter filed against Miura in the CNMI Superior Court.

Manglona had earlier set a briefing schedule for Miura to file a petition for habeas corpus.



Miura

Manglona's earlier order required Miura's counsel to file such petition by today, April 18. Any opposition brief from 2008. Any reply brief filed the CNMI government and or the State of California should also be filed by May 2, 2008, and any reply brief filed by Miura by May 8.

Berline and Warfield, however, agreed to request the court to extend the briefing schedule for the petition, opposition and reply. The parties requested that the petition would be due on or before May 2, 2008. They agreed that any opposition brief from the AGO and or the State of California would crime. The verdict, however,

by Miura would be due on or before May 19, 2008.

Manglona said she approved the stipulation and granted the request for extension due to good cause having been shown.

The 60-year-old Miura was arrested by Saipan authorities at the Saipan International Airport on Feb. 22 in connection with the murder of his wife, Kazumi Miura, in L.A. in 1981.

Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 of the was overturned by Japan's high court 10 years ago.

Last Friday, the San Diego Superior Court dismissed a murder charge a Mexican man who had already served a sentence in Mexico for murdering his wife 20 years ago. The court cited the principle of avoiding double jeopardy, in which a person may not be tried twice over the same crime.

The Saipan legal team of Miura last Tuesday expressed belief that the San Diego court's double jeopardy ruling will have a strong impact on Miura's murder case.

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# NMI seeks \$1.1M for govt desk audit

a million-dollar federal grant to conduct a comprehensive audit of government positions.

Finance Secretary Eloy S.

The Commonwealth is seeking Inos told a legislative committee yesterday that the grant application was submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior in February 2008.

The plan, he said, is to hire an independent team of management analysts to review the functions of government agencies and make recommendations as to how personnel should be allocated to do the job.

"The team will be able to look at the positions from a professional standpoint. It's different from simply conducting an inhouse desk audit," Inos said.

In addition, he said, the project will look at the jobs available in the private sector and provide recommendations on the kind of training that should be given to government workers transitioning into the private sector.

Inos also said the government plans to move forward with the program as soon as DOI provides the money. The CNMI has asked for about \$1.1 million for the desk audit.

Rep. Tina Sablan said she was encouraged by the plan, and called for cooperation among all branches of government.

A desk audit is expected to reveal inefficiencies, duplication, and under-utilized resources in the government. (Agnes E. Donato)

# Daycares to create customized emergency plans

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN Rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com

Abby Cohen from the National Child Care Information Center is on island to talk to both the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and various childcare providers about emergency planning.

Cohen and heads of the childcare program talked on Wednesday about what the agency would do if there is an emergency situation.

"We talked about what the lead agency would do should an emergency disaster strikes, to make sure that the childcare program is still operating," Cohen said.

Yesterday, Cohen met with various childcare providers, clueing them in on how to go about making a customized emergency plan for their respective daycares.

She said that the childcare licensing program being implemented here requires childcare providers to have an emergency plan. However "the emergency plan does not specify what the plan should look like or how it should be done."

Checklists on emergency planning were issued to childcare providers giving them the opportunity to customize their own emergency plan according to their specifications.

Cohen provided examples of effective emergency plans from childcare providers in various states in the US.

"Its different when you're talking with a big agency [DCCA] and learning about how they keep functioning and continuing to make sure that the providers get paid or make sure that when an emergency disaster strikes, how do they go out and make sure [that] everybody is okay, versus talking to the childcare providers," Cohen said.

She said she is helping childcare providers identify what they might need in their emergency plans.

"I'm actually helping them decide what their emergency plans could look like, but they still have the opportunity in the future to say how they really want it to look like," Cohen said.

According to Cohen, DCCA can help "specify a lot of things

[in the emergency plans] but they do not have them in their regulations right now. All they have is that these childcare providers must have an emergency plan."

She admitted that she herself was not clear because she only had one version of the regulations, while another one states that parents have to be notified about what the emergency plan is.

DCCA Melvin Faisao said there was indeed a previous regulation in place and a subsequent one that went into effect, which is already printed in the administrative code under the law revision.

"We have identified that the law revision made an oversight and placed the administrative code under the Division of Youth Services when it was supposed to be under the childcare licensing program," Faisao said.

He said that the whole idea of Cohen coming to Saipan and meeting with the department and childcare providers is to assist in rectifying missing "pertinent" information in DCCA's regulations.

"The idea is to improve on what's already there," Cohen said.

"Child care providers need to know what kinds of supplies are needed should a natural disaster strikes, or procedures to take, and they also need to be aware of what kind of impact a natural disaster would have on a child," she said

Cohen also shared that it would be wise if the department had a provision that states their authority to waive certain requirements for childcare providers if there is an emergency.

"The provision would be a good thing because if there is a disaster of some kind and you might need to start up childcare right away. The department would have the authority to waive certain requirements to open up childcare providers in emergency situations," Cohen said.

Faisao said that DCCA already has a provisional licensing; however, it does not "exactly spell out [that] we could grant you a provisional license in the event of an emergency. So that's when Ms. Cohen came in and shared with us that idea."

Faisao said that Cohen's visit the childcare program.

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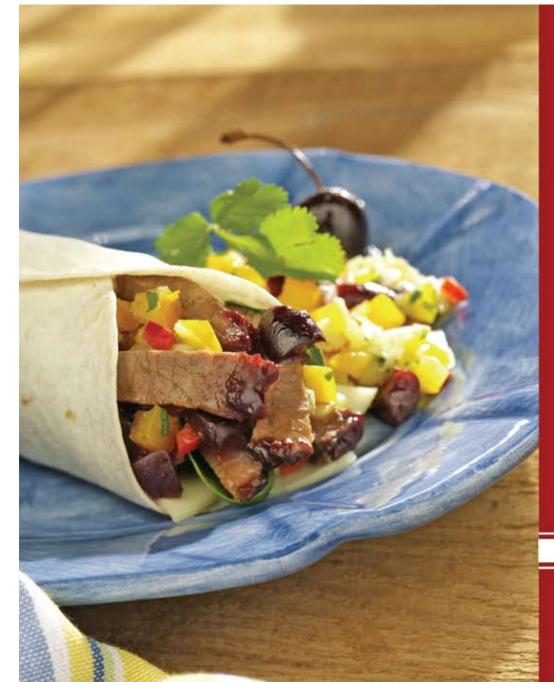
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# **Continental gets EPA award for PreKote use**

HOUSTON—Continental Airlines has received an award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Design for the Environment Program in recognition of the airline's use of an environmentally friendly, non-chromium surface pretreatment for its aircraft. Continental is the first commercial air carrier to use this technology on its aircraft, using a product called PreKote, produced by Pantheon Chemical.

"Continental is pleased to be acknowledged by the EPA for our part in using a more environmentally friendly product," said Mark Moran, Continental's executive vice president of operations. "Continental is always looking for 'green' alternatives, which support not only our Commitment to the Environment, but also ensure our employees have a great place to work."

Benefits of using this tech-

nology include the elimination of toxins and hazardous chemicals used in pre-treating aircraft prior to repainting, improved worker health and safety conditions, and the reduction of waste water as a result of the process.

"We applaud Continental Airlines for its leadership in health and environmental stewardship," said EPA Regional Administrator Richard E. Greene. "This is an important national effort to safeguard human health and protect the environment."

"Continental's decision to use PreKote Surface Pretreatment is shifting the industry to reduce toxins in aircraft painting," said Pantheon Chemical CEO, Laura Roberts. "We commend their corporate stewardship and commitment to sustainability."

This is Continental's second EPA award. The carrier has also been recognized by NASA and FORTUNE magazine for its environmental leadership.

Continental's use of the PreKote product is part of a company-wide commitment to environmental responsibility. The airline has achieved a 35 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption per mainline revenue passenger mile flown over the past 10 years, due in large part to the efforts of its employees in streamlining operational procedures and to an investment of more than \$12 billion to acquire 270 fuel-efficient aircraft and related equipment. Continental remains committed to investing in a fuel-efficient fleet, and has also partnered with Boeing and GE Aviation to conduct a biofuels demonstration flight, planned for the first half of 2009, in an effort to identify sustainable fuel solutions for the aviation industry.

Continental has reduced by

75 percent nitrogen oxide emissions from ground equipment at the carrier's largest hub, in Houston, through switching to electric ground service equipment and other new technology. This technology is now being tested for use in cold climates.

Through these investments and other projects, including the construction of airport facilities in an environmentally responsible manner, the testing of alternative fuels in ground service equipment, offering a credible carbon offsetting program based on the actual fuel burn of the Continental fleet, and an expansive recycling program, Continental will continue to manage the environmental impact of its business.

Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline. For more company information, visit continental.com. (Continental)

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**APRIL 18, 2000** 

### Congress help sought in pay discrimination suit

The chair of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations yesterday vowed to push a two-decade case involving alleged salary discrimination against indigenous employees during the Trust Territory government in the Northern Marianas. Rep. Dino M. Jones said he raised the issue during the talks held by the House delegation with members of the U.S. Congress last week to win support, noting that the legislative intervention is the only way to resolve the long-standing dispute.

### **Canoe voyagers relive Carolinian tradition**

Dressed in their native wear, Carolinians lined up the shore in Tanapag village eagerly waiting for a group of 50 individuals from the Northern Marianas and the Federated States of Micronesia who sailed for at least one month from the Yap atolls of Satawal and Polowat to Saipan. The crowd of more than 200 people, foreigners and locals alike, braved the grinding heat of the 2:00 p.m. sun as they watched indigenous dancers frolic in the tune of traditional songs that reverberated around the Carolinian Utt in Tanapag yesterday.

## Gov't divided over protest lodged vs Continental

Acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan yesterday downplayed the protest lodged by the Commonwealth Ports Authority against Continental Micronesia over its treatment of Saipan and Guam as co-terminals, saying the CNMI does not intend to cut off its relations with the region's largest carrier. "The matter is already resolved," he said, without elaborating, after meeting with CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas in his office.

**APRIL 18, 2001** 

## Termination or rehabilitation for drug-using gov't workers

The CNMI government has renewed warning that strong administrative actions will be meted out against civil service employees who will test positive for drugs, in line with efforts to discourage continued use of illegal substances. Officials said government employees who will test positive for use of illegal drugs are facing termination, depending on the seriousness of the case and the intricacy of the position they hold.

### **CPA** posts higher passenger traffic

Aircraft and passenger traffic at the Saipan International Airport registered dramatic growth in financial year 2000, amid the persistently slow rally of the Commonwealth's travel industry. The growth was primarily spurred by incentives provided by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to signatory airlines which, in turn, worked at increasing passenger haul to and from the Northern Marianas.

## **DEQ** lacks tools to help school's aircon problems

The Division of Environmental Quality does not have the capability to conduct air sampling tests that will determine the real cause of fragments released by Kagman Elementary School's air-conditioning units. Since the initial result of the investigation conducted by the Board of Education, Kagman school already spent more than \$1,800 only to change aircon filters of more than 160 units. Kagman principal Ignacia Demapan disclosed that despite the filter change, Saipan's youngest public school's airconditioning system continue to pose health risks to students exposed to the fiber glass particles.

**APRIL 18, 2002** 

## Salary cap issue: House taps Babauta on wrist

Due to defects in the certifications submitted by Gov. Juan N. Babauta to the Legislature for the lifting of the salary cap on seven gubernatorial appointees, the House of Representatives said it would not sanction the excess salaries "at this time." In response, Babauta said he would act on the matter accordingly. "I will make the necessary adjustments to ensure compliance with the requirements of the law," he said.

### Travel agencies run to govt. for help

CNMI travel agents have imposed a 5-percent service charge to each ticket sale to redeem the 5-percent commission removed by Continental Airlines and Northwest Airlines last March. This, according to officials of travel agencies in the Northern Marianas, was an option taken to help them defray operational costs without disrupting services to the traveling market.





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# Tinian Oceanview Resort groundbreaking still on

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR

Bridge Investment Group's groundbreaking of its \$40-\$60 million Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums project early next month is still on bill on Saipan.

While the company's vice president for CNMI operations, Phillip Mendiola-Long, mentioned in an e-mail that Bridge Investment owners are studying the new bill introduced early April at the House of Repredespite the revival of a gaming sentatives, he didn't say that

the company is scuttling the Cabrera and Associates. planned groundbreaking ceremony times during the island's San Jose fiesta.

"We have no comment on the Saipan gaming bill introduced by Rep. Oscar Babauta at this time. The owners are still discussing what if any impact or delay this will have on our projects plans to break ground in Fiesta weekend," Mendiola-Long wrote.

however, Bridge Investment is expected to go ahead with the project as witnessed by the flurry of activities the company had undertaken the past several weeks, including a recent trip to China by its architectural and design team, Herman B.

By the looks of things,

"The initial team will be purchasing vehicles, renting apartments and contracting for services while here. The management team is expected to arrive [this] weekend to conduct this business and find housing for the 30 construction workers." said Mendiola-Long.

It would be recalled that the project's original groundbreaking set for late December 2007 was cancelled because of the introduction of House Bill 15-322, a measure that intended to legalize gaming on Saipan.

Sponsored by Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, the "Video Gaming and Entertainment Card Games Act of 2008," proposes to legalize casino gaming on Saipan,

particularly at the former La Fiesta shopping mall.

The proposed legislation is similar to three bills rejected by the previous Legislature. It would allow video lottery terminals, as well as Texas Hold'em poker, black jack and baccarat games, to be operated at the former La Fiesta shopping mall.

Bridge Investment plans to construct a 301-room hotel and casino resort on Tinian as well as 268 condominium rooms in the CNMI's gambling capital. It will be built on 75,000 square feet of land that the company has leased for 55 years.

Aside from Herman B. Cabrera and Associates, Bridge Investment has also contracted the office of Mailman & Kara, certified public accountant Bruce McMillan, Marianas Development Corp. as its grounds maintenance firm, Power Buildings International as its local construction firm, FPA Inc. for ground clearing, and Marianas Environmental Services to work on its master site permit, environmental study, and prepare its report for the Historic Preservation Office.

Bridge Investment is a company formed by U.S.-mainland based investors Erik F. Wang, Rudy Pamintuan, Howard Li, Ken Wong, Akshay Desai, and Rocky Li.

The company said it also has offices in five different countries—Japan, Korea, China, U.S., and Russia.



**MVA** holds roadshow in Korea

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the Daegu leg of the Korea roadshow.

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently returned from the Marianas Road Show in Busan and Daegu, Korea. The purpose of the trip was to continue to support and promote the Busan-Saipan flight. The tour was hosted by MVA and Hana Tour.

A total of 160 travel agents participated in the show. MVA laid out the support plan for the Youngnam region, which is the second largest region in Korea behind Seoul, which is the leading market. The plan includes expanded volume incentive promotions, bus shelter advertising, consumer promotion plans targeting family travelers and trade FAM's for travel agents with good sales performance.

This event consisted of three sessions including MVA Korea's introduction of the CNMI, bound Korea market." (MVA)

a brief presentation from six participating hotels and a luncheon with a lucky draw raffle.

Asiana Airlines sponsored one round-trip ticket (Busan-Saipan-Busan) for the prize and the hotels provided accommodation vouchers. The participating hotels were Aqua Resort Club, Mariana Resort & Spa, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Saipan World Resort.

"Korea continues to be our number two source market and has shown consistent monthly growth," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The Marianas Roadshow allowed us to continue to promote the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to travel agents which play a very important role in the out-

# Argosy University hosts info session next week

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

Argosy University/Hawai'i will host a prospective student information session at the Café at the Park on Wednesday, April 23, 2008, from 6pm to 8pm.

Hosts of the event will be Hawaii campus' undergraduate chair Lisa Parker and director of admissions, Cherie Andrade.

The event will provide students the opportunity to learn about upcoming summer semester that will begin on May 5, 2008 and again on June 26, 2008.

Argosy University offers courses on Saipan with Richard Waldo as its coordinator.

The school offers both a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a doctorate degree in Education at the Northern Marianas College.

Both degrees are presented in a unique blended format, which is a combination of live instruction and online instruction. According to Waldo, the format allows the working student to attend college with convenient class times.

Argosy, which has been operating on Saipan for nearly three years, is fully accredited and is eligible for CNMI Scholarships, SHEFA grants and federal student aid programs.

Waldo said that Argosy is excited to honor its first graduating students this April 2008.

He added that Argosy University could help individuals achieve their career and academic goals.

For more information, contact Carlos Taitano at (866) 323-2777 ext. 5232 or via email at ctaitano@argosy.edu.



**10** FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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### **EDITORIAL**

# **Vox pop in China**

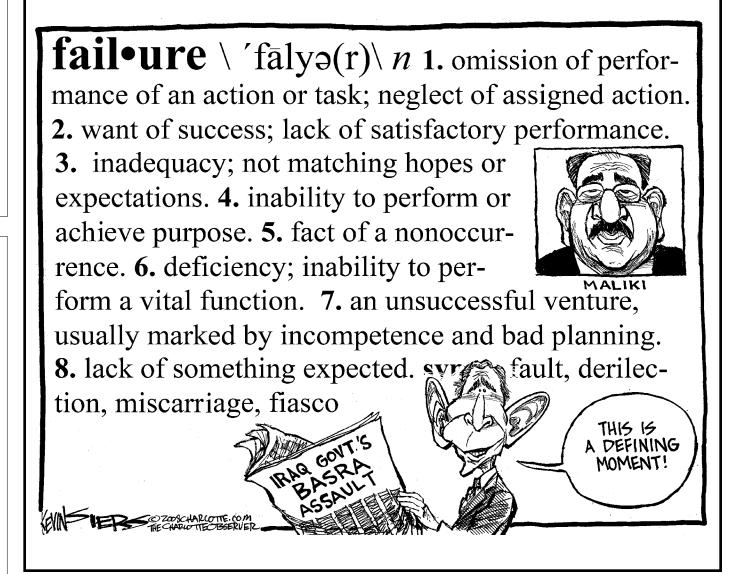
n the debate over Tibet and the Olympic torch, a great deal has been said and written about what the Chinese people believe. Pundits inform us that the Chinese people want their government to crack down harder on Tibetan protesters. The delicate and, apparently, fairly uniform—views of the Chinese people are cited as arguments against boycotts or other actions that might hurt the Chinese people's feelings. "It's also an issue of the Chinese people, who are very invested in the Olympics, who see it as a coming of age for China," national security adviser Stephen Hadley told the program "Fox News Sunday," explaining why world leaders shouldn't stay away from the opening ceremonies.

Well, maybe so. But since so much policy is built on the views of the Chinese people, it's worth asking: How do we know what they think? It's hard enough to gauge national sentiment on complex topics in societies where people feel no compunction about expressing their views. In nations where freely expressing views can and often does land people in prison, it's quite a bit harder.

There's a lot more personal freedom in China today than in the bad old days of Mao Zedong, and in private conversations, Chinese people may express opinions that diverge from the party line. But the Communist Party, which maintains a monopoly of power, makes clear that certain views can't be publicly expressed. Many thousands of security agents spend their days and nights monitoring e-mail and Internet communications and blocking Web sites that challenge party orthodoxy. The Web sites also police themselves to stay in business, quickly removing from chat rooms any comments that challenge Beijing on sensitive topics. People who insist on being contrary—people such as Hu Jia, 34, whose letter on human rights and the Olympics we published recently—find themselves hurled into the Chinese gulag after cursory, closed trials.

The greatest purported authority on what the Chinese people believe, of course, is the Communist Party itself. Just this week, for example, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman issued a "demand" to the "few" U.S. senators who are promoting a resolution in support of peaceful dialogue between China and the Dalai Lama: They should "abandon prejudice and immediately stop wrongful remarks and deeds that hurt the Chinese people's feeling." Never mind that the resolution was unanimously approved by the full Senate; if she and her employers are so sure of the Chinese people's feelings, why not allow them to speak out or more radically, to vote for their leaders? We think any U.S. senator receiving such a demand might be entitled to respond: Who elected you?

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



# A war on community service

By NOAH ZATZ

ne of the latest victims of the Bush administration's continuing assault on ordinary language is the term "community service." You might have thought that community service was about serving others, but apparently what it's really about is serving oneself.

That's the message from the Department of Health and Human Services, delivered in new regulations governing work requirements in a program known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF. TANF provides cash and services to families that are temporarily unable to make ends meet.

The work requirements of the program were sold to the public as a "social contract" when President Clinton and a Republican Congress created TANF. The community supports people in their hour of need and people receiving assistance give back to the community. That's why Congress wrote "community service" into the law as one way to satisfy work requirements.

But that high-minded talk about "reciprocity" has gone out the window. According to the new regulations, community service is just another job-training program. Traditional forms of community service — including many of those that are most beneficial to people in need — don't count anymore, unless they are "designed to improve the employability" of those performing the services. But enhancing our own job skills is not the primary purpose of ladling soup for the hungry, beautifying our public lands, consoling the sick, bringing joy to the elderly and mentoring the young. Serving others is.

The administration's interpretation not only mocks the spirit of public service but also mangles the law. The statute has other provisions for training and work experience. The regulations render the separate inclusion of "community service" superfluous.

The deeper question here is why families struggle economically. The administration's approach assumes away the possibility that hardworking, capable people might temporarily lack full-time employment because of a recession, a plant closing, a natural disaster or job discrimination, or because a family member has a serious illness or disability and needs care. Without debating the causes of poverty overall, the question is simply whether "get a job" or "get more skills" is always the answer for everyone. For this administration, the person is the problem every time.

The states, which administer TANF, know that real life is more complicated than this morality tale. Before the new regulations took effect, diverse states, including Georgia, Massachusetts, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin, took a more flexible approach. They sometimes allowed TANF recipients to give back to the community regardless of whether they were paid by an employer or were trained for a new job. That makes perfect sense for people whose skills are adequate but who simply need temporary support while they are looking for jobs, recovering their health or getting their families through crises. In such cases, community service easily fulfills the reciprocity principle.

Many states recognized that one way adults can serve the community is by providing care to its most vulnerable members. They counted as community service caregiving by foster parents or others who step in when a child's parents are dead or absent, as well as care for seriously ill or disabled parents, siblings or children. When family members do not provide this care, the government often hires home health aides or child-care providers through Medicare, Medicaid or child-care assistance programs. For this reason, there is no sharp division between caregiving and work experience.

In response to such points made in public comments, the administration shrank even further from an ethic of reciprocity. Caring for the vulnerable, it explained, "does not provide a direct benefit to the community." Why not? President Bush himself once said that caregivers "bring our families and communities together" and build "a culture of service, responsibility and compassion." Most people would consider it community service when someone mentors a child through a Big Brother-Big Sister program or delivers food to a homebound adult through Meals on Wheels. When the community takes responsibility for ensuring that care is provided, the community is served by those who provide it.

The administration seems to be insisting that nothing done within one's household could possibly count as work. That attitude reeks of sexism. Moreover, it becomes downright nonsensical when the government will pay a home health aide to care for someone but sees no benefit to the community when that person's child, sibling or parent provides the care instead.

At bottom, the administration repudiates the ethic of community service. Its view of the world is simple: You and your family are on your own and should focus on yourselves. So much for mutual responsibility.

The writer is a legal scholar who has written extensively on welfare work requirements. He teaches at UCLA and the University

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number **EDITORIAL POLICY** of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Taiwan: Adhere to healthy & nature

Thile S. 2739 was wandering its way through Washington D.C., and into Saipan headlines, I was playing hooky from that entire spectacle, and was, instead, wandering around northern Taiwan. Taiwan is within Saipan's economic orbit, though our trade and tourism ties are, of course, eclipsed by Japan and South Korea. Likewise, if you're looking for some advice on traveling to Japan or South Korea, it's easy to come by on Saipan, but Taiwan can be an utter mystery for a first-time traveler.

So it's about time someone offered Taiwan-bound travelers a few insights.

My insights come from a clean slate: I was utterly clueless when I arrived in Taiwan. Oddly enough, from a writing perspective that's a good thing, since it allowed me to get the raw experience of being totally at the mercy of the locals. My first step, and first impression, then, was upon arrival, when I bellied up to the information desk at the airport.

Now, worldwide, as you know, most airport information desks are entirely worthless, but Taiwan's actually had a helpful, intelligent, and intuitive staffer. She even called my hotel to help me ensure that I had a reservation (which had been a murky issue for me) and to help arrange my cab ride.

So, my first impression? Well, impressed.

But my second impression was even better. My hotel, the Monarch Plaza, had the most helpful hotel staff that I've ever encountered, and that's quite an array of encounters. I've stayed in a lot of hotels over the years, in Asia, the U.S., and Europe, sometimes racking up 200 days per year, and some with room rates as high as \$450 a night. The Monarch Plaza, which is in the airport area, isn't expensive, but its staff quality tops my list. That's no small issue when you're in a strange foreign country on business, you don't speak a word of the local language, and you don't have any local colleagues to help you out.

For my fellow road warriors, or those who desisted to stay in the airport area, I'll also note a couple of tips for the most critical of things, namely midnight snacks and morning coffee. If you emerge from the Monarch Plaza and look at your two o'clock position, there's a convenience store (the "Hi-Life") just across the street. I was surprised when I bought a microwavable snack and the clerk actually cooked it in the microwave for me. And for a good, honest cup of American style coffee (and a bite to eat), there's the LaGuardia coffee shop, which is two or three blocks away if you make a hard left after leaving the hotel lobby.

The LaGuardia's motto, as posted behind the counter: "Adhere to healthy & nature." Well, how can you argue with that? So I did, indeed, adhere to healthy & nature, and took a day-hike in the mountains in the northeast part of the island, along the Caoling Trail. The trail, several miles long, and very steep in parts, was paved with a scrupulously maintained stone walkway, and there was not one piece of garbage or graffiti along the way. Clean, yes, and quiet,

### By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed's column runs every Friday. Contact Ed via his website, TropicalEd.com.



too: no cretins with boom boxes blaring rap music. The hikers appeared to be exclusively Taiwanese families and couples, and they were friendly folks.

I'll note, by the way, that driving is on the right side of the road, as nature meant for it to be. Traffic manners, by Saipan standards, are, shall we say, aggressive, but nowhere near on par with nightmares like Manila. Driving, in Taiwan, is doable, but not carefree; same for being a pedestrian.

Other notes for the traveler: Convenience stores and small restaurants don't seem to commonly take credit cards; the airport's restaurants are very (very) reasonably priced; and cell phone sim cards and service are likewise inexpensive (but you'll need your passport to get the sim card, or at least I did).

In summary, Taiwan was a very pleasant surprise. The people were friendly, the place seems to chug along efficiently, my moderately priced hotel was a real treat, and the countryside was enjoyable, accessible, safe, and clean. Taiwan, once a mystery to me, is now a favorite. I can't wait to go back.

# Four steps to prevent diabetic blindness

o far, we've talked a fair bit about some of the underlying barriers to getting the care you need. You may be saying, 'Okay, I get it. I'll do what I need to do, but what exactly are the actions I need to take?" It's fairly simple—not necessarily easy, but simple. Four steps can greatly increase your chances of preserving your vision in diabetes. Any one of these can help tremendously, but the four together than have a huge impact on your ability to see throughout your life. The first two are the easy

- 1. Get an eye exam every year. The eye exam is the starting point of finding problems and treating them before they become disasters. Do this now. Get up and make an appointment or visit your eye doctor.
- 2. Get the eye treatment that's recommended. Finding the problem is not enough. Hopefully your diabetic eye disease will never reach the point that it needs treatment, but chances are that at some point, you will need some sort of treatment for diabetic eye

disease. Follow the treatment recommendations that your doctor makes. Take the time to understand what is being recommended and why. Think through the decision with a clear mind that isn't clouded by fear, and get the recommended treatment. Remember that the chances of going blind without the treatment are higher.

- **3. Control your blood sugar.** High blood sugar is the culprit that causes diabetic eye disease. If you have high blood pressure, control this also. Controlling your blood sugar and hypertension can be challenging, and it is something you will work have to pay careful attention to for all your life. A normal blood sugar is the cornerstone of minimizing all the complications of diabetes.
- **4. Stop smoking.** I tell my patients that diabetes damages blood vessels, and smoking damages blood vessels. Either one by itself is bad, but together, diabetes and smoking cause disasters. Smoking is extremely difficult to stop. Programs are available to help you. This is the toughest one, but if you can stop smoking, or even cut

# By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist and director of Marianas Eve Institute and the author of the book, World Peace, a Blind Wife, and Gecko Tails. Com-

ments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or email him through www.MarianasEye.com, or leave comments at www.MarianasEye.blogspot.com. Copyright © 2008 David Khorram

down, it will make a significant improvement in out overall health.

I have found that my patients who get an eye exam every year, who get treatment when it is needed, who control their blood sugar and who stop smoking have taken the major steps in preventing diabetic blindness.

### **Letters to the Editor**

# Tough justice

In response to yesterday's article, "Outages damage new prisons air cons," I thought you might find this information of interest. Good, bad or indifferent, you have to love the guy's style. I Googled his name and had 158,000 hits—he IS real! To those of you not familiar with Joe Arpaio, he is the Maricopa County sheriff (Arizona ) and he keeps getting elected over and over again. These are some of the reasons why:

Sheriff Joe Arpaio created the "tent city jail" to save Arizona from spending tens of million of dollars on another expensive prison complex. He a federal court order that required of the inmates were in his jails in the

ing and charges the inmates for them. He banned smoking and porno magazines in the jails, and took away their weightlifting equipment and cut off all but "G" movies. He says: "They're in jail to pay a debt to society not to build muscles so they can assault innocent people when they leave."

He started chain gangs to use the inmates to do free work on county and city projects and save taxpayer's money. Then he started chain gangs for women so he wouldn't get sued for discrimination. He took away cable TV until he found out there was has jail meals down to 40 cents a serv- cable TV for jails. So he hooked up first place.

the cable TV again but only allowed the Disney Channel and the weather channel. When asked why the weather channel, he replied: "So these morons will know how hot it's gonna be while they are working on my chain gangs."

He cut off coffee because it has zero nutritional value and is therefore a waste of taxpayer money. When the inmates complained, he told them, "This isn't the Ritz-Carlton. If you don't like it, don't come back." He also bought the Newt Gingrich lecture series on U.S. history that he pipes into the jails. When asked by a reporter if he had any lecture series by a Democrat, he replied that a democratic lecture series that actually tells the truth for a change would be welcome and that it might even explain why 95 percent

With temperatures being even hotter than usual in Phoenix (116 degrees just set a new record for June 2nd), the Associated Press reports: About 2,000 inmates living in a barbed-wiresurrounded tent encampment at the Maricopa County Jail have been given permission to strip down to their government-issued pink boxer shorts. On Wednesday, hundreds of men wearing pink boxer shorts were chatting in the tents, where temperatures reached 128 degrees. "This is hell. It feels like we live in a furnace," said Ernesto Gonzales, an inmate for two years with 10 more to go. "It's inhumane."

Joe Arpaio, who makes his prisoners wear pink, and eat bologna sandwiches, is not one bit sympathetic. "Criminals should be punished for their crimes, not live in luxury until it's time for parole, only to go out and commit more crimes so they can come back in to live on taxpayers' money and enjoy things many taxpayers can't afford to have for themselves."

On Wednesday he told all the inmates who were complaining of the heat in the tents: "It's between 120F to 130F degrees in Iraq and our soldiers are living in tents, too, and they have to walk all day in the sun, wearing full battle gear and get shot at, and they have not committed any crimes, so shut your damned mouths!

Way to go, sheriff! If all prisons were like yours there would be a lot less crime and we would not be in the current position of running out of prison spaces. Sheriff Joe was just re-elected Sheriff in Maricopa County, Arizona.

Roger Ludwick Sadog Tasi, Saipan

# Embracing the changing times

Local indigenous people are not the only ones who are opposing the federalization of CNMI immigration (although I'm sure there are locals who are celebrating in silence). Believe me, there are also guest workers who are mourning since S. 2739 was passed. For them, this means deportation at some point in the future. But as we say it, there are always two sides of the story. I represent the other side; the side that cried tears of joy when I heard that finally, the bill was passed

by the Senate. I know that majority of my fellow guest workers in the CNMI also welcomed the news as victory.

Regardless of my take on the issue, I want to let Mr. Greg Cruz and his group know that I respect their sentiments and ideals because I clearly understand what they are fighting for. I also respect the guest workers who are not on my side. The line between us is called uncertainty. However, allow me to share what I believe and hope to happen when the takeover takes

a) Federalization will help solve the CUC problem. After all, I don't think they can live with two to three power outages a day.

- b) Better quality of water.
- c) Business from the Federal workers and their families who have more spending money than us.
- d) The business sector will have a voice in the formulation of implementing regulations.
- e) Guest workers will remain here

because the CNMI will never stop needing us regardless of who runs the immigration system. The federal agencies will realize how guest workers complement the building of the local economy.

- f) Federal agencies will sincerely take into consideration the local government's inputs because, after all, this is their island.
- g) CNMI will be able to take advantage of the military buildup in Guam.

Times are changing and it's chang-

ing fast. In our case, change is inevitable and is happening just when the islands need it. Perhaps if we will unite and work together as one, this can be an opportunity that will be great for everyone. Although it is painful, there are times when change is necessary and there's no amount of resistance that can stop it. One can only embrace and fly away with it.

Irene N. Tantiado Capital Hill, Saipan **12** FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

### 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

**▲82° ▼76°** 

Guam and Rota

Palau

Chuuk

Pohnpei

Kosrae

Majuro

Auckland

Hong Kong

Los Angeles

Melbourne

New York

Honolulu

London

Manila

Miami

Osaka

**Paris** 

Pusan

Rome

Salem

Seoul

Tokyo

Saipan Harbor

12:17AM Today

6:21AM Today

12:59PM Today

7:00PM Today

following

**PICTURES** 

Beijing

Yap

**Micronesia** 

Cloudy

Cloudy

Cloudy

Cloudy

**Around The Globe** 

Cloudy

Showers

Showers

Sunny

Cloudy

Rain

Showers

Showers

Sunny

Rain

San Francisco Mostly Sunny ▲60 ▼45

Washington, DC Mostly Sunny ▲80 ▼55

**Tides** 

I ow Tide:

High Tide:

Low Tide:

High Tide:

Partly Sunny ▲87 ▼76

Thunderstorms ▲84 ▼70

Thunderstorms ▲83 ▼73

Mostly Sunny ▲66 ▼52

Partly Sunny ▲80 ▼73

Mostly Sunny ▲72 ▼59

Mostly Sunny ▲79 ▼69

Mostly Sunny ▲77 ▼54

Partly Sunny ▲ 75 ▼ 51

Mostly Cloudy ▲ 51 ▼34



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Fast winds 15 to 20 mph.

**▲83° ▼75°** 

**▲**85 **▼**76

**▲**88 **▼**77

**▲**88 **▼**78

**▲**78 ▼59

**▲82** ▼76

**▲**48 ▼41

**▲**78 **▼**52

**▲94** ▼76

**▲**63 ▼53

**▲**58 **▼**43

**▲**64 **▼**57

**▲**76 ▼50

**▲64** ▼53

0.5 Feet

1.9 Feet

0.3 Feet

1.8 Feet

**▼77** 

**89** 



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

**▼75°** 

**▲83°** 



isolated showers.

**▲83° ▼76°** 

Yesterday's Satellite Image

**AGRIHAN** 

SAIPAN

150

Upper-level divergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Minami Tori Shima or north of a line from 22N153E to 22N158E. An upper-level low is

currently centered near Wake Island at 19N169E. Upper-level divergence is producing

scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the island between 16N and 21N

from 170E to 180. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 3N130E through two weak

circulations centered at 3N132E and 3N145E then southeastward to end at EQ150E.

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near the trough axis south of

Koror and Yap within 70 miles of a line from 4N132E to 5N136E to 4N141E and also well

southwest of Chuuk within 200 miles of 4N145E. Trade-wind convergence is generating

scattered showers south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and near the equator within 100 miles of a

Today

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

6:32PM

6:32PM

6:32PM

6:32PM

6:33PM

160

**Moonrise/Moonset** 

4:47PM

5:35PM

6:23PM

7:13PM

8:05PM

**GUAM** 

YAP

140

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲83° ▼76°** 

MAJURO

170

4:18AM

4:53AM

5:28AM

6:06AM

6:46AM

### Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via

NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily Nagoya

### Saipan-Osaka

Nagoya

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

**DEPARTURES** 

4:50am Daily

1.2.5.6

Daily

Dailv

Daily

9:20am

1:20pm

4:20pm

7:20pm

10:20pm Daily

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Rota

Saipan-Guam

8:30am

CO9317 4:00am

CO9313 8:30am

CO9601 12:30pm

CO9603 3:30pm

CO9605 6:30pm

CO9599 9:30pm

CO9597

### Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

### Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

### Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

### Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7

### **Guam-Manila**

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7

### Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6

**Guam-Hongkong** CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5

### **Guam-Rota**

CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

7:50am 8:20am

FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily

4:50pm 5:25pm

6:45am 6:55am

8:00am 8:10am

8:40am 8:50am

9:10am 9:20am

7:40am

10:45am 10:55am Daily

FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am

FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm

FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm

FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm

7:30am

FRF 100

Saipan-Rota

Rota-Guam

Guam-Rota

Rota-Saipan FRE 300

Saipan-Rota

Rota-Guam

Saipan-Tinian

FRE 101

FRE 103

FRE 105

FRF 107

FRE 109\*

FRE 111\*

### **ARRIVALS**

Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

**Guam-Saipan** CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily 10:00am 3.4.7 via Rota CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily

### Narita-Saipan

NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via

### Osaka-Saipan

NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily

### Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily

### Manila-Saipan

CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm

### Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2.4.6.7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6

### **Busan-Saipan**

OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3.4.6.7

### Manila-Guam

CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror

and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily

PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1.3.5.6.7

### **Guanzhou-Saipan** CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5

### **Hongkong-Guam** CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5

### **Rota-Guam**

CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRÁVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

line from 7N154E to 1N160E to 2N178E.

**Sunrise/Sunset** 

6:01AM

6:00AM

6:00AM

5:59AM

5:59AM

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS** 

### For pictures:

Today

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

- otos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. ■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb). ■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),
- the name of contact person, and phone number. ■ Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

### For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

next day's edition. HOW TO SUBMIT

the name of contact person, and a phone number

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to

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Fax: (670) 235-3740

 Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950 ■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contrib 6397 235-2440 235-8747

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- announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the Saipan Tribune reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish

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### FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE **ETA** Frequency ETD ETD ETA Frequency Guam-Rota FRE 113 11:40am 11:50am Dail FRE 115 1:00pm 1:10pm FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily Daily 2:30pm 2:40pm FRE 117 Rota-Saipan

Daily

Daily

FRE 119

FRE 121

FRF 123 \*

FRE 125 \*

FRE 126

### 6:00pm Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting

4:00pm 4:10pm

4:40pm 4:50pm

5:40pm 5:50pm

6:10pm

Daily

Daily

Daily

Daily

Daily

Daily	flights to	Rota or C	auam^^	
,	FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Dail
	FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Dail
Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Dail
	FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Dail
Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Dail
	FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Dail
Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Dail
Daily	FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Dail
Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Dail
Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Dail
Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Dail

6:20pm 6:30pm

# **STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following: ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at

www.nmicrimestoppers.com

# Back to the Stone Age: Is this what we really want?

elieve it or not, there are only two things that must happen to get the CNMI headed in the right direction. They are actually so simple that it pains many to see that no one has rallied the population to get up and make systematic changes that would go a long way to the betterment of our collective existence. It's almost as if the majority of our population has just given up and waits patiently until the last of days.

Right now, we are broke, the feds have an Iraq war to fund, the Japanese have found other more exotic destinations, the garment business that people loved to hate has left the island and along with it over \$50 million in government revenues, oil is at \$115 per barrel, and we still have not privatized CUC, so your electricity bills are amongst the highest in the civilized world. This is our new reality.

The biggest reason for our collective suffering is that we still hope that the same way of thinking that got us here in the first place will somehow get us out of this monumental mess. It won't. And that's what we need to accept, that the world around us has changed so much that we can't cling to the romantic notion of the "good old days" or the way things used to be. The world around us has changed so much since the 1990s.

Look around you. America may elect a black man as President for the first time in its history. Oil has gone from \$10 to \$114 per barrel, putting the likes of General Motors and Ford close to bankruptcy. Closer to home, could you ever have imagined that our cousins from Guam would have houses whose value has doubled over the last four years on average to a staggering \$250,000. In 1989 on my first trip to Saipan, it seemed like Saipan was leaving Guam

in the dust. We are now going

in opposite directions like two

And yet, despite all that is

going on around us, we still

cling to Stone Age belief, that

owning land is a path to wealth

ships in the night.

Letter to the Editor

# Illegitimate concerns

Open letter to the Commissioner of Education:

I am writing in support of Mrs. Lynne Michael as the Rota principal. I've known this person all through my entire life since she first moved to Rota. She really cares about the island and the people of Rota. She and her husband contribute their time in helping the environment and the Rota Blue triathlon. They also used their boat to help rescue drowning victims and boaters in distress.

Most of all, she really cares about educating our island's children to higher standards and excellence. These are what we need to keep in school! High standards, discipline to the students and the faculty. Life these days is too hard. Students need to be highly disciplined and challenged to face the realities of life. The people of Rota were forced to sign petitions that were spearheaded by a few group of people who dislike the superb job of Mrs. Michael. And were also provided with wrong information about Mrs. Michael, which resulted in an outbreak of negative outburst or outcry toward Mrs. Michael. There is nothing wrong with this person. She can run the school well and manage it professionally.

This is so embarrassing for my community. We should focus on the big issues affecting our island and not putting our negative energy and thoughts on minute things. If it is not broken...don't fix it. Rota leaders, stay away from this issue! Respect the commissioner's decision. Focus on fixing the problem of the CNMI and help the people. Not this kind of illegitimate concerns.

John Manibusan Fort Hood, TX and prosperity. People in New York, London, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Guam have a lot less land than the average person in the CNMI, and yet their movie theaters are staying open, their hospitals are better staffed, and their schools are in better shape. The path to wealth and security is not land, it's education and health. Look at all the old rich Spanish families in the Philippines who had all the land—many are now poor, and the Chinese who owned no land are now very rich.

So why are we so obsessed with keeping so much land that is not being used? Not even for planting? After all, if raw land is truly

The biggest reason for our collective suffering is that we still hope that the same way of thinking that got us here in the first place will somehow get us out of this monumental mess.

to have value, it must be producing crops. How many of us still want to toil in the hot sun, or even know the first thing about agriculture? Many know nothing, and couldn't plant enough to eat a decent meal, let alone feed a family. So, again it is everyone's moral obligation to convince the people living in the past that we must put some of this unused land to good use. Why must we continue with an apartheid-like system which doomed South Africa and Nazi Germany to failure, when we can hardly keep ourselves afloat and maintain a decent quality of life?

Ask yourself, does it really matter if we sold or allowed either

### By RICKY DELGADO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ricky Delgado is the president and chief executive officer of Pacific Telecommunications Inc.

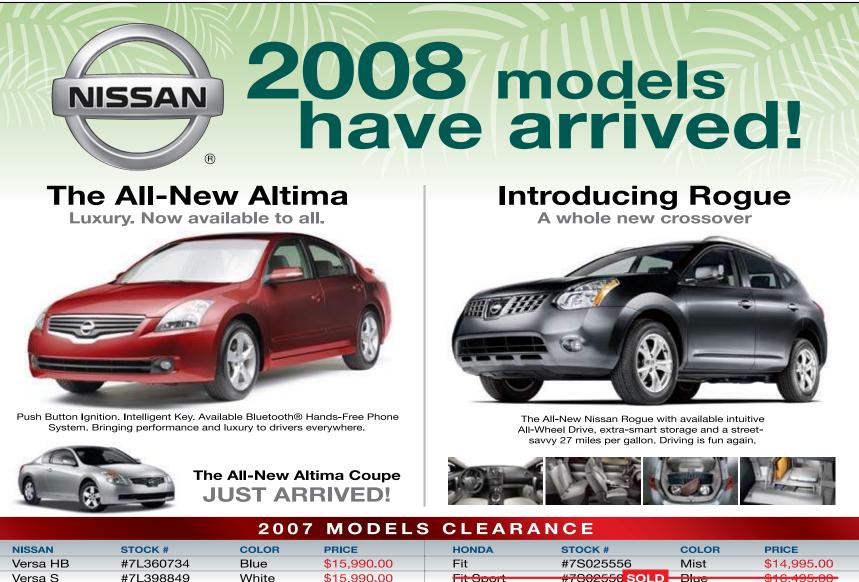


individuals or the government to sell or at the very least lease for 99 years 25 percent of the beach front land to developers who can bring in retirees that can build new houses, eat in our restaurants, fly on the airlines that service us, pay some real estate taxes so our government could have more money for better doctors, teachers, and other public essentials? Why do we need to wait another four years before something is done and its already too late?

So once we get over the old ways of thinking, all we need to do is plead to our leaders to work together for their children and grand-children's own sake. Yes, I have heard it a thousand times, there are at least eight different people who want to be governor of the CNMI, and they will never work together, no matter what. Each is afraid that taking a stand that will cost him the election.

But we need our leaders to focus on the business at hand. Let them compete next year having shown what they have accomplished. Otherwise, what will become of us? Fact is, whether we like it or not, we all share and are connected to the same islands, and even if we can't stand the guy or girl next to us, we still need to work with that person even for our own self-interest and that of our families and friends. If the CNMI suffers, we all do, and no one is exempt.

Let's not let our inertia, apathy, and our bad old habits condemn us to a Stone Age existence. For future generations, we need to do something now. All of us are morally accountable and should work for change we can believe in.



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# Sobriety checkpoints today and tomorrow

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI checkpoints today and tomorrow, April 18 and 19.

In today's checkpoint, the first setup will be on Beach Road Susupe by the Multi-Purpose building. This operation will start at 7:30pm and will end 8:45pm. The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Garapan by the Horizong Building. This will start at about 10pm and will end around 11:15pm.

Tomorrow, April 19, the first setup will be on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa by Meenas Store. This will start at around 7:30pm and end at 8:45. The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai by Sherwin Williams building. This operation will begin at 10pm and end at around 11:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (one hour and 15 minutes) at each location.

In addition, traffic officers will conduct highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdiction, and laser activities.

For more information, contact PO3 Juan C. Mendiola or Sgt. Jerry Ayuyu at 664-9085. (*DPS*)



### 2008 YOUNG ARTISTS SHOWCASE

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

4th Annual Sister Cities Art Competition first place winner Marianas High School's Joseph Martin, left, 2nd place Bryan Deleon Guerrero, 3rd place Earllon Granada, and other student participants from MHS, Saipan Southern High, Hopwood Junior High and Mt. Carmel School hold their certificates and awards as they gather for a photo with Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and Saipan Mayor's Office youth programs coordinator Olinka Chaudhry during yesterday's awarding ceremony at the Mayor's office in San Antonio. Martin's artwork will represent the CNMI in the Maui County Sister Cities Foundation 2008 Young Artists Showcase.

# Brings you the 8th installment Of our Another exciting offer from the Grand!

# COMO magazine visits Saipan

COMO Magazine from Japan is on Saipan from April 17 to 19, to work on an article for its July issue, according to The Marianas Visitors Authority.

COMO is a monthly publication and is in its 17<sup>th</sup> year of publication with a circulation of 108,554 targeting housewives in their 30s and 40s. Inside the pages of COMO are topics on fashion, lifestyle, childcare and relationships. The July is-

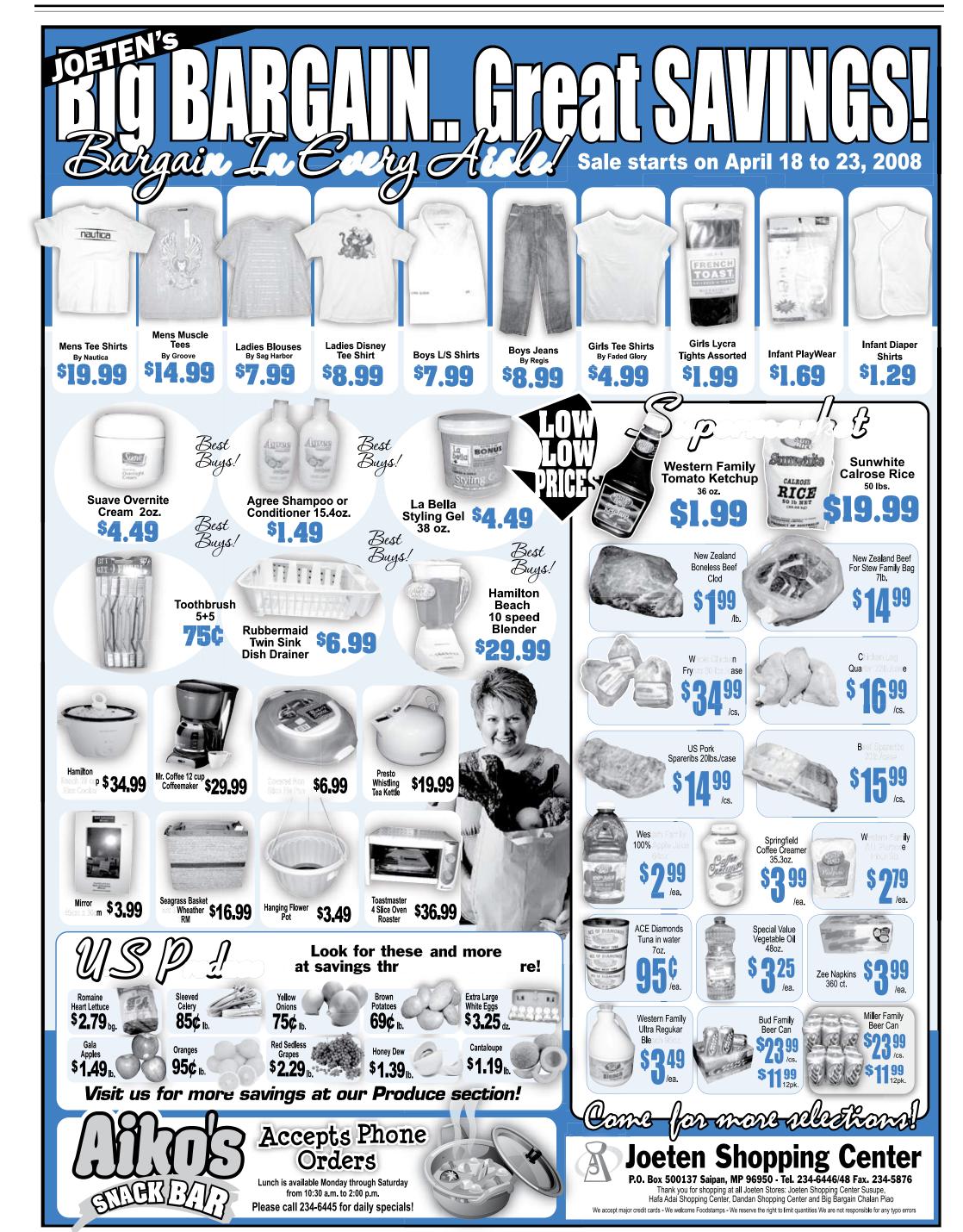
sue will feature the CNMI as a resort destination for families. The estimated value of the article is \$80,000.

The team of five from COMO will visit Managaha Island, take a snorkeling trip, ride the Banana Boat, sightsee at Bird Island and will experience a show at Sandcastle Saipan. In addition, they will visit some hotels on Saipan and enjoy shopping and visiting the street market.

MVA cited Pacific Islands Club, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Tasi Tours, Saipan Botanical Garden, Sand Castle Saipan and Hard Rock Café for their support of this tour.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said: "The continued support from the Japanese media assists MVA in showcasing our destination to the outbound Japanese travel market." (MVA)







USED CARS										
STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE			
TOYO	TA :	SEDANS								
U08-017P	2002	AVALON 4DR.	AUTO	34812	BEIGE	ABW-469	14,999			
GM C	ARS									
R07-031F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	68515	YELLOW	ABY-169	7,999			
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	7,999			
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	7,899			
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	7,899			
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	9,999			
LEXU	S									
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO		IVORY	ADU-502	29,999			
TOYO	TA	TRUCKS								
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	15,999			
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	11,899			
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	12,499			
ОТНЕ	R C	ARS & TRUCKS								
U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	11,599			
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	8,599			
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	8,599			
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	8,399			
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	15,799			
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	7,999			
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	10,899			
SPOR	RT U	TILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	12,599			
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	12,799			
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2x4x16	<b>\$6.10</b> /Pc	<b>\$5.75</b> /Pc						
2x4x18	<b>\$6.90</b> /Pc	<b>\$6.30</b> /Pc						
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### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

### Coin drive fundraising today

Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Bodig will be holding a coin drive fundraising event today, April 18, from 3pm to 6pm, at the Microl Toyota Intersection in San Jose.

Team Bodig is inviting the public to help support its efforts in raising funds for the battle against cancer by driving by and donating whatever they can to this worthy cause. All funds raised go toward the fight against cancer.

The MMAC Committee is reminding the community about the upcoming 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer, which will be held on May 16-17 at the Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao from 6pm to 6am.

The 2008 MMAC Title Sponsors are Duty Free Shoppers, PTI, Joeten Charitable Foundation, Northwest Airlines, Bank of Guam and Sorensen Media Group. Major sponsors include Younis Arts Studios, Shell Marianas, Saipan Mayor's Office, Angil Design, Pacific Trading Company and Staywell Insurance. (PR)

### **Memorial Day meetings set**

May 26, 2008 Memorial Day, we will be paying tribute to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are no longer with us. We will remember those who served our great nation so that we may enjoy the fruits of freedom of a democratic society.

This is to let all Memorial Day Committee members and all interested in being a part of the committee that we will meeting every Tuesday at 9am, at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill building 1364. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend. (*PR*)

### **Benito Clan reunion meeting**

This is to inform the children, grandchildren, and great-grand-children of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano that the next meeting for the "Benito Clan Reunion" will be on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at the residence of Prescilla T. Castro and Gloyd Martin in Kagman III, at 6pm. Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting. For more information, contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-5974 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. (*PR*)

### Live-fire training on Farallon island

The U.S. military will be conducting live-fire training and aerial survey on Farallon de Mendenilla. The schedule dates and time are as follow:

- April 18 20 from 8:30am to 1am, live-fire training
- April 21 from 5am to 7pm, aerial survey
- April 22 from 1:30pm to 6pm, aerial survey
- April 23 from 8am to 11:30am, aerial survey

EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (*EMO*)

### **Utility payment assistance available**

Funds under the Mayor's Utility Assistance Program are now available to help qualified residents pay for one month of their power bill

This is a federally funded program available to residents of the Municipality of Saipan who are unable to pay their power bill with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela said that applications may be picked up at his office at Afetnas Square in San Antonio during regular working days.

For more information call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 235-7304 or 234-6208. (PR)

### Chamber scholarship deadline today

Deadline for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Educational Scholarship Fund is today, April 18, by 5pm, and those interested are urged to turn in their applications now.

This year, the Chamber will award six \$1,500 scholarships to deserving Saipan high school seniors. Both public and private high school seniors are eligible, as are non-U.S. citizens. To download complete eligibility requirements and application materials, visit the Chamber's website, www.saipanchamber.com, as well as at the Chamber office in the Family Building on Garapan Street in Garapan.

Scholarships will be awarded at the Chamber's general membership meeting on June 4, 2008. Questions may be directed to the Chamber at info@saipanchamber.com or 233-7150. (SCC)

### **Hopwood upcoming events**

- April 14-18: Testing days for the SAT 10. Students' attendance is important for these testing dates
- May 4,5,6: Accreditation visit. Parent and community involvement is highly encouraged
- May 19 20: 8th Grade Final Exams
- May 28: 8th Grade Promotion Day (2:30pm-5:30pm)

# Closure of NMI waters to purse seine fishing affirmed

rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has reaffirmed the purse seine closures for the CNMI and other U.S. Pacific Islands on Monday.

The closure around the CNMI and Guam would include all federal waters out to 200 miles

WESPAC upheld its vote made last month to close federal waters around the CNMI, American Samoa and Guam to purse seine fishing.

When the council met last

they had voted to prohibit purse seine fishing throughout the exclusive economic zone surrounding the CNMI. However, this decision—and other decision relating to Guam and Hawaii fishing—was invalidated after the council reportedly failed to give proper notice of the meeting with the Federal Register prior to the event. This meant that the council had to redo their March 17-18 meeting all over again.

In its decision to prohibit purse seine fishing in the CNMI, the council said they were concerned that the revitalization of the U.S. purse seine fleet, com- Guam and the CNMI would was based primarily on the low the allowable annual sea turtle bined with the likely constraints on purse seine fishing effort in the Western and Central Pacific, may lead to increased interest by U.S. purse-seiners to fish in the U.S. EEZ surrounding the entire Mariana Archipelago.

"It is also likely that new vessels augmenting the U.S. purse seine fleet will be based primarily in the far west of the region in Micronesia," the Council said at the March meeting.

The purse-seine fishing method uses large nets to target skipjack tuna to be processed as canned tuna.

Skipjack tuna is also caught by subsistence fishermen who troll using hook and line.

The closure addresses potential user conflicts of this resource.

The closure around American Samoa would span 3 to 75 miles offshore. The closure around include all federal waters out to 200 miles offshore.

The council also voted to ban longline fishing in federal waters out to 30 miles from the shore surrounding the CNMI. Longline fishing is already banned out to 50 miles or more around Guam and Hawaii, and pelagic fishing by vessels larger than 50 feet is banned out to 50 miles from the shore around American Samoa. Manny Duenas, council member from Guam recused himself from the longline vote. Decisions made by the council are transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval.

The council also reviewed and upheld its prior vote to reopen the permit application period for the limited entry of American Samoa longline fishery for one year. The decision number of eligible fishermen who applied during the initial enrollment period and the high number of small boat fishermen who will lose their permits due to the existing minimum landing requirements. Also considered were a handful of fishermen who missed the initial application period deadline and the current economic concerns in American Samoa. Stephen Haleck, council member from American Samoa, recused himself from the vote.

The council also reviewed and recast ballots on management of the Hawaii longline fishery for swordfish. In making its decision, the council considered the health status of the Pacific swordfish stock. The council upheld its March decision to remove the current annual effort limit on the number of allowable sets and to modify

interactions to 46 loggerheads and 19 leatherbacks. Interactions refer to entanglements or hooking and not to mortality. The recommended sea turtle interaction caps will be subject to further council, agency, scientific, and public review, and potential modifications, before being finalized. Council chair Sean Martin recused himself from the vote.

The council also reviewed but did not revote on non-regulatory action items including squid permits, main Hawaiian Island bottomfish risk analysis, annual catch limits and the Community Development Program.

The council is the policymaking agency for fisheries management in federal waters surrounding Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Pacific remote island areas.

# **Combat veterans briefing set**

All combat veterans and their dependents will be undergoing an information/counseling briefing by Catherine Illarmo, the Department of Veterans Affairs team leader/LCSW from the Guam Vet Center. The briefing will on April 24, 2008, at 1pm at the Army Reserve Center.

The Vet Center is inviting all combat veterans and their dependent to include the center as a provider for their readjustment counseling needs.

"The [Guam Vet Center] is committed to providing quality readjustment services to returning war veterans. This briefing is critical and it is important that the veterans attend in order to ensure services and that the services they plan to provide correspond with your needs," said Ruth Coleman of the CNMI Office of Military/ Veterans Affairs.

In the effort to address the 664-2650. (PR)

needs of veterans residing in the CNMI, the center is making plans to extend its services to Saipan on a monthly basis.

In addition to the April 24 meeting, there will be a limited number of Individual counseling appointments available for Friday morning, April 25, 2008, at the Office of Military/ Veterans Affairs.

The date, time and place of the briefing is as follows:

Saipan: April 24, 2008, 1pm, Army Reserve Center

Saipan: April 25, 2008, 9am Military/Veterans Affairs Office, Capitol Hill, Bldg 1364

For combat veterans and their dependents who are interested in counseling, call Catherine at 1-671-472-7161 or Ruth at 664-2650.

Any questions or for further information, call Coleman at

# Get Up To Date with our SMARTPHONES



# Bordallo issues statement on injury of Guam soldier

HAGATNA, Guam—Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo issued the following statement yesterday regarding the recent injuries sustained by Guam Army National Guard PVT Joseph Miner.

"I join our entire community in praying for the quick and full recovery of Joseph Miner. We are grateful for his service to our country." Bordallo said. "His dedication and service to our nation reminds us of the sacrifices of all of our sons and daughters of Guam serving in harm's way around the world." (PR)



**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** 

Happy birthday greetings go out to Glenn and Sean, who are both celebrating their birthdays next week. Glenn, right, will have his birthday on April 21, Monday, while Sean will celebrate Wednesday next week, April 30. Greetings come from your friends at Troy.

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# Guam students get ukuleles from music studio

HAGATNA, Guam—Elusive Light Studios, a locally owned and operated music studio, recently donated brand new ukuleles to 10 students from J.P. Torres Alternative School in Santa Rita.

"This project aims to make a musical difference in the lives of the youth in our community," said studio owner Edgar Flores.

According to Flores, funding for the project was raised from recent sales of the Studio's Holiday CD compilation of local artists such as band members from The Kasuals, D.U.B., Fried Bananas, Patrick Palomo, Two Weeks Notice, The Service Entrance, Metal Daze, Acoustic Soul, Core and many more, released just last December.

In addition, the students were provided with ukulele lessons from JB's Ukulele Hut as part of the donation.

Flores says, his vision would not have been made possible if not for



Students from J.P. Torres Alternative School in Santa Rita show off their brand new ukuleles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the generous donations from spon- surance, Hyatt, J's Tees, Guam Na- Hut and its partnership with Big Fish

### Red flag up on Rota beach

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on the Coral Garden beach on Rota after samples collected showed excessive concentrations of enterococci that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

In order to adequately address public health concerns, DEQ has given the location a red flag and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of the site for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from 12 locations on Rota Island. DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter.





Special Thanks to: All the School Coordinators, Ray Santiago Tenorio, DLNR-Parks and Recreation, Saipan Sabalu Market, MDX Radio Group, KSPN2 News, JROTC, Sg. Major Kyoshi, CUC, Virgie Avendano, Annie Hayes, SIS volunteers, Stellar Marianas, Mayor's office, Marianas Variety, Saipan Tribune

DYS Volunteer Program / Child Protection Unit, Child Care Licensing Program, NMC Nursing Students, NMC CREES & NMC 4-H Club, CDAC, ARC Disaster Services, ARC Health and Safety.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 **19** 

# **Pacific**

### Samoa police probe missing \$150K

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Investigations by Samoa police into alleged misappropriation of funds in the Ministry of Police accounts section has included the Ministry of Finance and the government's audit office.

A police source says the investigation is focusing on how the payment procedures were handled between the police accounts section and the two government offices.

But the source says the Ministry of Finance and the Audit office have blamed the police accounts division for lack of supervision and poor management of funds, which allegedly led to more than US\$150,000 going missing.

However the assistant police commissioner and spokesman, Papalii Li'o Ta'eu Masipa'u, says so far not enough evidence has been found against the Ministry of Finance and the Audit

### PACIFIC BRIEFS

### **PNG** highlands hospitals run low on oxygen

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—Panic beset hospitals and patients in the Highlands region because of a drastic shortage of oxygen supply yesterday. The shortage threatened the lives of many patients. Kundiawa General Hospital was down to its last two oxygen bottles—a day's supply —yesterday. Director of Medical Services, Dr Francis Wandi said the two bottles would be used up by the end of yesterday. Yesterday afternoon BOC Gas country manager based in Lae Robert Parrish said two truckloads of 55G and 91E size cylinders of oxygen would be sent to Mt Hagen this morning.

### Marshalls, PNG to support Turkey's UN bid

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—Papua New Guinea and the Marshall Islands have confirmed they will support Turkey's bid to sit on the United Nations' Security Council next year. Pacific Correspondent Campbell Cooney reports that Turkey needs the support of the 192 member states of the United Nations' General Assembly, to win a non permanent seat on its Security council for two years, starting in 2009. Last week Turkey welcomed the representatives of 16 Pacific Island nations to Istanbul. The Turkish government said it wanted to strengthen relationships with the region.

### **New Solomons fund** gives \$143,500 to each district

**HONIARA**, Solomon Islands (SIBC/PIR)—The government has approved a Livelihood Development Fund, which distributes one million Solomon Islands dollars [US\$143,500] to each of the 50 constituencies in the Solomon Islands. The Fund comes under the Development Budget, which was passed in Parliament last week. The Solomon Islands National Parliament has 50 members, elected

for a four-year term in singleseat constituencies. Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development and Indigenous Business Affairs, Judson Leafasia, says the Fund is being provided by the Government specifically for projects that would benefit constituencies. Leafasia says the Livelihood Development Fund is the first of its kind.

### TV cameraman dies in Vanuatu film shoot

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A chief in Vanuatu says a man died because the organizers of the Nagol, or Pentecost Land dive, ignored a cultural ban not to stage the event during the first five days following the yam harvest. Chief Telkon Watas says television cameraman Hardy Ligo died because cultural restrictions were not respected. Chief Telkon, who is regarded as the owner of the Nagol, says he had urged the organizers to delay the event for five days. Ligo was working for an Australian film production company, Beyond Productions, which was shooting the Nagol on behalf of the National Geographic Society. The Director of the Vanuatu Cultural Council, Ralph Regenvanu, says National Geographic and Beyond Productions were aware of the ban and used the victim to break the ban on their behalf.

### PNG'S Oil Search liquidates Middle **East assets**

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—Papua New Guinea major oil and gas company Oil Search Limited has sold its Middle East and North African (MENA) assets to raise funds for the PNG liquid natural gas project. The company announced yesterday that it had sold a package of its Middle Eastern assets for \$US200 million (K577.2 million) million) to focus on the development of a liquefied natural gas project led by US energy giant ExxonMobil.

# Betel nut chewers digging up reefs

Demand for crushed lime powder on the rise

**HONIARA**, Solomon Islands (Solomon Times/PIR)—Betel nut chewing contributes to the degradation of coral reefs, was

a message among others that sprinkling lime powder on the stood out at the launch of the Pacific year of reefs 2008.

People who enjoy chewing betel nuts were told to think twice about how much damage their habit has done to the reefs.

Betel nut chewing involves

nut before chewing.

An observer at the stall display pointed out that in the Maringe District of Isabel Province, people have damaged the coral reefs in order to produce the lime for betel nut chewing.

This practice is however not limited to Isabel Province but is wide spread throughout the islands.

Listeners were informed that the more people developing the habit, the higher the amount of damage people would do to the coral reefs in the future.

# Vanuatu prison escapees confess crimes to chiefs

PORT VILA (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—A meeting by the Freshwota Council of Chiefs Sunday has identified three Correctional Services escapees- Sam Koilo, Bill David and Lee Tamata - to have been

responsible for the rape of a girl and bashing of two gentlemen at Freshwota during the time of their recent escape.

During the meeting that saw more than 300 people in attendance, recaptured inmate Sam Koilo was identified to have been responsible for the rape while Bill and Lee confessed to being behind the bashing.

Another culprit Tom Black was also identified but he was not at the meeting.

Apart from Black, Koilo, Bill and Tamata were escorted by the police to the park where the meeting proceeded successfully.

Following the identification police will lay charges against



**20** FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Business**

# Oil futures jump to record over \$115 NEW YORK (AP)—Crude fu- cord \$114.93 a barrel. sive gas is declining. 100,000 barrels. Analysts had further in spring—Fed

tures made their first foray past \$115 Wednesday, propelled to a new record by concerns about how much gas will be available during the peak summer months.

Inventories of gas fell by 5.5 million barrels last week, according to the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration, a much bigger decline than forecast by analysts surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires. Light, sweet crude for May delivery responded by rising as high as \$115.07 on the New York Mercantile Exchange, and later settled up \$1.14 at a re-

The report said crude inventories fell by 2.3 million barrels last week, compared to the gain analysts expected.

Oil prices were also boosted by the falling dollar, which declined to a new low against the euro on Wednesday. Many investors buy commodities such as oil as a hedge against inflation and a falling greenback. A weaker dollar also makes oil cheaper to investors overseas.

But the market was torn and traded sharply lower at times due to data deeper in the report showing that the country's appetite for increasingly expen-

"Demand for gasoline is terrible," said Phil Flynn, an analyst at Alaron Trading Corp. in Chicago. Gas demand has fallen an average of 1 percent each of the last four weeks compared to the same period last year. "Demand should be rising this time of year."

Still, May gasoline futures rose 5.8 cents to settle at a record \$2.939 a gallon on the Nymex after earlier rising to a trading record of \$2.9427.

The EIA report also said inventories of distillates, which include heating oil and diesel, unexpectedly rose last week by about expected a sharp decline. May heating oil futures rose 0.91 cent to settle at \$3.283 a gallon.

Demand for gasoline has been falling for months as consumers reacted to a series of price records by driving less. The national average price of a gallon of regular unleaded gas rose 1.3 cents Wednesday to a record \$3.399 a gallon, according to a survey of stations by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. That's 53 cents higher than a year ago, and is expected to keep climbing along with futures prices and as the summer driving season draws near.

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The tions released Wednesday. country's economic health deteriorated further in early spring as shoppers buckled under the strains of the housing and credit debacles and a weaker employment climate.

Manufacturers and others businesses, meanwhile, were walloped by zooming prices for energy and other raw materials. However, their ability to jack up retail prices to customers was mixed, with some companies restrained by competitive pressures, according to the Federal Reserve's new snapshot of nationwide economic condi-

conditions "Economic have weakened," the Fed report stated.

Many analysts believe the economy has fallen into a recession, predicting that economic activity contracted in the first three months of this vear and is still ebbing. Even Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke recently acknowledged for the first time that a recession was possible. That was a rare utterance of the "r" word for a Fed chief. The government later this month will report on the economy's first-quarter performance.

WE WOULD LIKE THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI TO BE INTRODUCED TO THE

### PEW CHARITABLE TRUST FOUNDATION

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WANT PRESIDENT BUSH TO DESIGNATE OVER 1/3 OF THE ENTIRE CNMI ECONOMIC EXCLUSIVE ZONE INTO A NO-TAKE MARINE PRESERVE



Hijacking Fisheries Management Written by Gary Caputi

AS SEEN IN THE JULY / AUGUST 2007 ISSUE

Pew Charitable Trusts co-opts the management process using paid-for science and a well-oiled media machine.

"Fisheries Face Collapse by 2048!" the headlines screamed late last year, and nowhere was it heard louder than in Washington, DC. Congress was debating the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act at that precise moment. The cited study by Dr. Boris Worm of Dalhousie University was just the media hype the Pew Charitable Trusts wanted as part of an orchestrated campaign to influence debate on the nation's primary fisheries law.

Dr. Worm, a recipient of Pew funding, coordinated with SeaWeb, a Pew-funded public research group specializing in media campaigns, on the message and the timing to get as much media coverage as possible. Big media loves a crisis and when you have the money and the manpower, you can plant one.

Dr. Worm's report was quickly labeled by top fisheries scientists and managers as a Pew advocacy piece. The kicker was Worm's call for "wide scale, no-fishing marine reserves" as a remedy, a goal high on the agenda of Pew funded organizations! Worm's work in the past had been branded "invalid" and "undermining the trust placed in science." This was a textbook study in disseminating misinformation disguised as science with the express purpose of influencing political debate.

The media firestorm was part of a broader, coordinated attack that included misleading ad campaigns smearing key politicians facing re-election. The targets just happened to be those involved in crafting scientifically sound legislation that recognized the needs of recreational fishermen and the industry. Not surprisingly, this campaign was led by a Pew-funded environmental group, the Marine Fish Conservation Network.

The Pew Charitable Trusts is the 800-pound gorilla of ocean issues sitting on a \$4.1 billion war chest that refuses to let reality get in the way of its agenda. Their self-mandated mission is to save the oceans. They claim the primary purpose (of the trust) is "to make grants to other organizations as well as direct planning and conducting projects and initiatives that carry out the organization's religious, charitable, scientific, literary and educational purposes." This validates that grant recipients are carrying out the ideas and motivations of Pew and the impact of such tactics is changing the direction of fisheries policy. True management and conservation is being replaced by a call to stop all fishing through the use of Pew paid-for science, funneled through Pew-financed conduits and touted by Pew-funded environmental organizations. Much of their agenda is anti-fishing, even on rebuilt or rebuilding fish stocks, to the point of being little more than a cleverly disguised attack on public access to the ocean.

For example, Pew funding has enabled ecologists to drive the

scientific agenda for the implementation of California's Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), which is now poised to close 20% of that state's waters to recreational fishing. Pew Fellows serve on the Science Advisory Team where they push closures while ignoring current, successful management practices, which, on the West Coast, are among the most restrictive in the world! Their network lobbied the Governor for an extreme proposal, and now California's angling community is fighting a losing battle that is making it harder to find a place to fish.

Pew is a major grant provider to universities and professors in the marine sciences and the major provider of funds to environmental groups, which push the party line. Those groups include National Environmental Trust, Oceana, Earthjustice Legal Defense, New England Aquarium, Public Interest Research Group, National Audubon Society, National Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Conservation Law Foundation, Marine Conservation Biology Institute, Marine Fish Conservation Network, Wildlife Conservation Society, Friends of the Earth and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Combined, these groups have received over \$200 million of Pew money!

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is particularly worrisome. It is attempting to become an umbrella group for sportsman's organizations by attracting some with the lure of Pew money. The RFA has balked at affiliation because of the Pew influence.

Congressman Pombo, then chair of the House Resources Committee and target of one of the smear campaigns said recently, "Throughout the long process to reauthorize the Magnuson Act, the RFA was consistently at the table, insisting on sound conservation policies based on the most accurate science. Their goal was clear, a sustainable fishery so that this generation of recreational fishermen and the following generations would have fish to catch. Most of the others engaged in this debate had other agendas or were missing in action. At the end of the 109th Congress it was clear to me that the RFA was the only player left insisting on protecting the future of recreational fishing. I will always be grateful to them and respect their tenacity during what proved to be a difficult reauthorization."

Since the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Act in 1996, the management of U.S. fisheries, while far from perfect, has improved dramatically, yet Pew continues to use scare tactics to drive its agenda domestically while the most egregious problems are readily found abroad. Their intentions sound laudable, but the reality is that their goal is to severely curtail or stop fishing - all fishing! In the process Pew is damaging the ability of recreational fishermen to do what we love, regardless of the conservation efforts we have made in the past and those we are working to achieve in the future.

## March consumer prices are up, reflecting higher energy prices

WASHINGTON (AP)—Inflation rose again last month, reflecting big jumps in the cost of forecast is for even bigger energyrelated increases to come, including the possibility of \$4 per gallon gasoline by Memorial Day.

Those inflation pressures are occurring just as the economy seems to be sinking into a recession, with consumers cutting back on spending and the housing industry, where all the troubles started, sinking further.

That was the somber news from a batch of economic reports released Wednesday that depicted an economy still struggling with multiple problems from a prolonged slump in housing, soaring energy prices,

a severe credit crisis and rising unemployment.

The Labor Department said energy and airline tickets. And the consumer prices rose by 0.3 percent in March, after being unchanged in February, as energy prices jumped by 1.9 percent and airline fares, reflecting higher fuel costs, increased 3 percent, the biggest one-month gain in six years.

> Food prices, which have been steadily rising for more than a year, were up by 0.2 percent in March and 4.4 percent over the past 12 months. The price of some food staples showed even bigger increases over the past year, including a 14.7 percent rise in the price of bread and a 13.3 percent increase in milk prices over the past year.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

### **American Airlines parent AMR** posts 1Q loss on fuel costs

**DALLAS** (AP)—Whipsawed by high fuel costs and bad weather, American Airlines' parent company lost \$328 million in the first quarter, and then things really turned ugly. American, the nation's largest carrier, says it began the new quarter this month by losing tens of millions more when much of its fleet was grounded for safety inspections. And it warns that costs will rise the rest of this year, even for things other than fuel.

### Wall Street surges higher by 250 pts.

NEW YORK (AP)-Wall Street rallied Wednesday after betterthan-expected quarterly results from JPMorgan Chase and two other Dow Jones industrials raised investors' hopes that companies and the economy are indeed recovering from the protracted global credit crisis. The Dow rose more than 250 points as investors shrugged off any concerns about oil passing \$115 a barrel for the first time. The Dow rose 256.80, or 2.08 percent, to 12,619.27. The index is up nearly 900 points from a low near 11,740, reached March 10. Broader market indexes also gained. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 30.28, or 2.27 percent, to 1,364.71; and the Nasdaq composite index advanced 64.07, or 2.80 percent, to 2,350.11.

### **United Airlines raises fuel** surcharge \$10 to \$20 roundtrip

NEW YORK (AP)—UAL Corp.'s United Airlines said Wednesday it raised its domestic fuel surcharge by \$10 to \$20 roundtrip, less than a week after the nation's second-largest carrier increased fares to offset rising fuel expenses. The move, which went into effect late Tuesday night, comes after oil prices topped \$114 a barrel for the first time, and will likely put pressure on other airlines to follow suit. Travelers in some markets who were paying a surcharge of \$25 one-way will now see that charge increase to \$35.

The above article was obtained from: http://www.floridasportfishing.com/magazine/conservation/hijacking-fisheries-management.html



A Public Service Announcement paid for by:

CNMI Citizens Opposing the Northern Mariana Islands National Marine Monument

# Cracking the code on landing cool jobs

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Feeling a little envious of all those people who seem to have much cooler jobs than yours?

Well, you can sit around seething in your cubicle, or you can pick up a copy of "How'd You Score That Gig?," a new book by Alexandra Levit that catalogs 60 dream jobs and what it takes to get them.

There are many cool jobs that people don't even know exist, Levit said in a recent interview. "I wanted to crack the lid off of all those elusive jobs that get all the conversation at dinner parties," she said.

Many of the jobs in "How'd You Score That Gig?" are quite un-corporate: outdoor adventure guide, fashion designer, professional organizer and wine merchant, among others.

Levit chose these jobs based on the results of an online survey in which she asked nearly 500 people in their 20s and 30s about their dream careers. She took the top 60 careers and developed profiles of the skills and personality traits it takes to succeed in each. She divides the jobs into seven broad categories, based on the personalities likely to thrive in them. From there, she offers upbeat, practical advice for breaking into each field.

Not sure if you're an "entrepreneur," a "nurturer" or a "networker"? To help you narrow your focus, Levit starts the book off with a simple, unscientific quiz that she developed with her husband, a clinical psychologist.

Most of these jobs are extremely competitive, a fact that Levit doesn't gloss over. At the same time, she's not a pessimist. After all, someone has to deliver the nightly weather report.

Meteorologist, in fact, is among the jobs Levit profiles, and she takes care to distinguish between two popular branches of the field: weather forecasters and television weathercasters. "Although most experts will tell you that meteorology is tough to break into because it's such a small field, the educational barriers to entry are rather low when compared with many other scientific professions," she writes.

"Entry-level forecasters working for the federal government, for example must have just a bachelor's degree. ... As a television weathercaster, you might not even need to get a bachelor's provided you perform well on camera and know how to get the information that results in accurate forecasts."

Meteorologist falls into the category of jobs perfect for people she calls "data heads," those with a knack for gathering and organizing information. According to Levit, "these individuals prefer to work on their own and despise inefficiency and bureaucracy. The data head is happiest setting concrete goals

and achieving them. ... They don't like to be micromanaged and will pursue their plans to the

point of being stubborn."

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Sound like you? Perhaps you'd be happy as an environmental

engineer or financial adviser, just two of the other jobs that Levit places in the data head group,

along with meteorologist.

However, not everyone's temperament can be easily

categorized. There is one trait that she encountered across the board in the hundreds of successful, creative workers she interviewed while writing the book: "All of these people have one thing in common, and that is persistence."

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**22** FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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Saipan, MP 96950



### NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

- A. *Public hearing.* In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the *Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe*, *Saipan*, on *Tuesday*, *April 29*, 2008, at *10:00 a.m.* on the application of *Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort*, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed *construction and operation of a golftel facility, including the renovation of its existing 36-hole golf course*, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.
- **B.** *Nature of hearing*. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.
- **C.** Further information. For further information, please contact CDA's Acting Chief Executive Officer at 234-7145/7146/6293/6245, or at the CDA office at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer



# The CNMI Head Start Program is pleased to announce Open Registration for School year 2008-2009



### REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Only parents or legal guardians are authorized to register their child(ren).

- ☐ Child(ren) birth certificate.
- ☐ Head Start Program Forms 3, 4 & 5 (copies can be obtained at the Head Start Office)
- Social Security Card
- School Health Entrance Certificate and medical insurance (if anv).
- Parent's/Guardian's verification of income (2 of your most current check stubs or other public assistance, such as Medicaid, WIC or Nutrition Assistance).
- □ Passport/Visa/Immigration Permit (for non-residents)
- Legal Guardians must provide notarized documents stipulating the guardianship of child(ren).
- Parents of children with disabilities are required to bring their child(ren) current IEP or IFSP.

Please be advised that the Head Start Program is a Federally Funded program that has Eligibility and Selection Criteria's. Registering your child does not guarantee automatic enrollment. The program currently enrolls between the ages of 3-5 years old.

Children cannot be accepted into the program prior to their 3rd birthday.

### For more information:

Please visit office at any Head Start Center near you #1256 Pohnpei Way, Capitol Hill, Saipan

664-3751 or 323-7446

# Nation

# **Clinton says Obama can win White House**



Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-III., right, shakes hands with Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y. at the conclusion of their debate at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Wednesday April 16, 2008.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton said emphatically Wednesday night that Barack Obama can win the White House this fall, undercutting her efforts to deny him the Democratic presidential nomination by suggesting he would lead the party to defeat.

"Yes, yes, yes," she said when pressed about Obama's electability during a campaign debate six days before the Pennsylvania primary.

Asked a similar question about Clinton, Obama said "Absolutely and I've said so before"—a notso-subtle dig at his rival who had previously declined to make a similar statement about him.

In a 90-minute debate, both rivals pledged not to raise taxes on individuals making less than \$200,000, and said they would respond forcefully if Iran obtains nuclear weapons and uses them against Israel.

"An attack on Israel would incur massive retaliation by the United States," said Clinton.

Obama said, "The U.S. would take appropriate action."

They differed over Social Security when Obama said he favored raising payroll taxes on higher-income individuals. Clinton said she was opposed, her rival quickly cut in and countered that she

had said earlier in the campaign she was open to the idea.

Under current law, workers must pay the payroll tax on their first \$102,000 in wages. Obama generally has expressed support for a plan to reimpose the tax beginning at a level of \$200,000 or more.

The debate was the 21st of the campaign for the nomination, an epic struggle that could last weeks or even months longer.

Pennsylvania, with 158 delegates at stake, is a must-win contest for Clinton, who leads in the polls and hopes for a strong victory to propel her through the other states that vote before the primary season ends on June 3.

# Pentagon details prisoner abuse

WASHINGTON (AP)—Military interrogators assaulted Afghan detainees in 2003, using investigation methods they learned during self-defense training, according to Pentagon documents released Wednesday.

Detainees at the Gardez Detention Facility in southeastern Afghanistan reported being made to kneel outside in wet clothing and being kicked and punched in the kidneys, nose and knees if they moved, the documents show.

A 2006 Army review of the case concluded that the detainees were not abused but that the

incident revealed "misconduct that warrants further action."

The documents, which were turned over Wednesday evening to the American Civil Liberties Union, focus on the 2003 death of Afghan detainee Jamal Nasser, who died in U.S. custody at the Gardez facility.

The documents detail interrogation techniques used on eight detainees, including Nasser, who were suspected of weapons trafficking.

The Army review found that abuse did not cause Nasser's death. But the documents include interviews with some interrogators who acknowledged to slapping the detainees—a technique they learned during survival training at the Army's SERE school. SERE stands for Survive, Evade, Resist and Escape.

"You say you gave permission for (redacted) to hit detainees during interrogations; did you have a memorandum or order from your higher headquarters authorizing that?" a military criminal investigator asked one of the interrogators, according to a November 2004 transcript among the more than 300 pages of documents.

### Pope says clergy abuse scandal was sometimes 'badly handled'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI told America's Roman Catholic leaders Wednesday evening that the clergy sex abuse scandal has sometimes been "very badly handled," his harshest criticism yet regarding the crisis that has badly damaged the U.S. church.

Benedict's remarks came at a prayer service with hundreds of American bishops at a national shrine in Washington, and marked the second time the pope has addressed sex abuse on his first papal journey to the U.S.

On his flight from Rome, the pope said he was deeply ashamed of the scandal and would fight to keep pedophiles out of the priesthood.

Benedict addressed clerical molesters in the wider context of secularism and the over-sexualization of America. "What does it mean to speak of child protection when pomography and violence can be viewed in so many homes through media widely available today?" he asked.

The pope spoke after Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, who is the president of the U.S. Con-

ference of Catholic Bishops.

George said that the consequences of the clergy abuse scandal "and of its being sometimes very badly handled by bishops makes both the personal faith of some Catholics and the public life of the church herself more problematic."

Benedict seemed to agree with that assessment.

"Responding to this situation has not been easy and, as the president of your episcopal conference has indicated, it was sometimes very badly handled," he said.

### **ACROSS THE NATION**

### Illnesses rise among plant workers who handled pig brains

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The number of mysterious neurological illnesses among workers who processed pig brains at pork plants in three states has grown to as many as 24, and other possible cases are being evaluated, researchers said Wednesday. Dr. Daniel Lachance, a Mayo Clinic neurologist, said there are now 18 confirmed cases among people who have worked at the Quality Pork Processors plant in Austin, Minn. That's up from 13 cases reported as of February. Lachance also said there are now about five cases among workers at a pork plant in Indiana, compared with two confirmed earlier, and one recently identified case at a plant in Nebraska. The common thread among the affected workers is that they all worked in a part of the plants that used compressed air to blow pig brains out of skulls, Lachance said. All the plants have discontinued the practice.

### **Nearly 300 arrested** in immigration raids at poultry plants

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Nearly 300 people were arrested Wednesday in immigration and identity theft raids at Pilgrim's Pride poultry plants in five states. More than 100 people were arrested on immigration violations in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Moorefield, W.Va., with 45 arrests in Mount Pleasant, Texas, on charges of false use of Social Security numbers. More than 25 people face administrative charges of immigration violations in Live Oak, Fla. They will also face identity theft or document fraud charges. More than 20 were arrested in Batesville, Ark.,

on federal warrants for alleged document fraud or identity theft. Plants were raided in Mount Pleasant, Texas, Batesville, Ark., Live Oak, Fla., Chattanooga, Tenn. and Moorefield, W.Va., authorities said.

### **Obama reports** income of \$4.2M in 2007 tax returns

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, made \$4.2 million last year as widespread interest in the presidential candidate pushed the sales of his two books. In tax returns the campaign released Wednesday, the Obamas reported a significant jump in their income from the previous year as profits from the books "Dreams From My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope" accounted for some \$4 million. The Obamas paid federal taxes of \$1.4 million and donated \$240,370 to charity. Their salaried income was \$260,735, which included his \$157,102 salary as a U.S. senator and hers of \$103,633 as vice president of community and external affairs at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

### Man at center of Las Vegas ricin case arrested, charged

LAS VEGAS (AP)—An unemployed graphic designer who authorities believe was nearly killed by ricin was arrested Wednesday on federal charges that he possessed the deadly toxin as part of an "exotic idea," never carried out, to poison his enemies. Roger Bergendorff, who authorities allege began making ricin a decade ago, was arrested upon his release from the hospital where he had been treated since Feb. 14. He

is charged with possession of a biological toxin and two weapons offenses stemming from materials authorities said were found Feb. 26 and Feb. 28 in his room at an extended-stay motel several blocks off the Las Vegas Strip.

### **Executions to resume** after high court OK's lethal injections

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The longest pause in executions in the U.S. in 25 years is about to end. A splintered Supreme Court cleared the way Wednesday, approving the most widely used method of lethal injection. Almost immediately, Virginia lifted its moratorium on the death penalty. Mississippi and Oklahoma said they would seek execution

dates for convicted murderers, and other states were ready to follow. A nearly seven-month halt in executions was brought on by the court's decision to review Kentucky's lethal injection procedures, which are similar to those in roughly three dozen states. The break is the longest since a 17-month period ending in August 1982.

### **Sect members** say life 'normal' on polygamous church ranch

ELDORADO, Texas (AP)-Members of the embattled polygamist sect said Wednesday life was relatively normal on their West Texas ranch at the center of one of the nation's largest child-custody cases.

The Yearning for Zion ranch is owned by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints that state authorities raided two weeks ago in search of a 16-year-old girl who claimed her husband beat and raped her. Child welfare officials have removed all 416 children living there from the custody of their parents. The 16-year-old has yet to be found. Members gave a few tours to show their lives—isolated from what they regard as a hostile and sinful outside world-center on family and faith.

### **Calif. jury convicts** elderly women in murder conspiracy

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Two elderly women accused of kill-

ing two homeless men to collect millions of dollars in insurance payouts were convicted Wednesday of conspiracy to murder, and one of them was convicted of the murders themselves. In an unusual step, the jury was to hear more arguments Thursday before deciding remaining counts in the case against Helen Golay, 77, and Olga Rutterschmidt, 75. The judge decided to take five initial verdicts. Golay was convicted of the first-degree murders of Kenneth McDavid, 50, in 2005 and Paul Vados, 73, in 1999. She was also convicted of the conspiracy counts in both killings. Rutterschmidt was convicted of conspiracy to murder McDavid for financial gain.



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/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S



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SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 6, 2008

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IMPACT REPORT FOR **CNMI BEACHES AND LAGOON USAGE FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"** 

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/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D. DIRECTOR, CRMO

**24** FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

### REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

### **SPORTS REPORTER**

- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

### **ART DIRECTOR**

- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

### **GRAPHIC ARTIST**

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

### **EDITORIAL ASSISTANT**

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the Saipan Tribune, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.



# Asia

# **India readying for protests** during Olympic torch relay

NEW DELHI (AP)—Thousands of police patrolled central New Delhi, guarding against anti-China protests for the Olympic torch relay Thursday in India, the heart of the world's Tibetan exile community.

About 100 Tibetan exiles tried to breach the security cordon Wednesday around the Chinese Embassy, and police dragged away about 50 of them, loading them into police vans—but not before they manage to spray paint "No Olympics in China"

on a street near the embassy.

After decades of frosty relations, New Delhi is trying to forge closer ties with China, and Indian officials are desperate to avoid the chaos during torch runs in London, Paris and San Francisco.

Many in India's 100,000-member Tibetan exile community, the world's largest, have threatened more of the protests that they've staged nearly every day here since demonstrations first broke out in Tibet in March and were put down by Chinese officials.

In recent weeks, Tibetan exiles here have stormed the Chinese Embassy, which is now surrounded by barricades and barbed wire, gone on hunger strikes, and shaved their heads to protest China's crackdown on protests in Tibet.

The exiles say the torch run through the city is a perfect opportunity to make their point, despite the fact that the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader, says he supports China hosting of the Olympics.

# China \$450M Olympic stadium opens



Workers stand below the roof of China's National Stadium, the main venue for athletics competition at the Olympic Games, in Beijing Wednesday April 16, 2008.

BEIJING (AP)—The centerpiece of the Beijing Olympics rises 230 feet tall, its lattice of steel beams sometimes vanishing in a thick blanket of smog.

Quietly and without fanfare, officials have opened the National Stadium—nicknamed the "Bird's Nest"—and it's ready to hatch its first sports event.

The final touches on the \$450 million, 91,000-seat stadium won't be completed until next month, but organizers let journalists in Wednesday to look around.

Inside, Franco Destefanis of Italy knelt as he installed the last few slabs of the rubberized running surface for track events.

"The design, the new-style architecture and the size is impressive," said Destefanis, who has worked on 150 stadiums around the world and is doing his fifth straight Olympic track and field venue. "The outside catches your eye, particularly with the lights at night."

Its unusual design was created by twisted steel beams that wrap around the exterior to resemble silver twigs binding a nest together. The icon of the Beijing Games, it's been called the best work produced by Switzerlandbased architects Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron.

However, Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, who was a consultant on the project, has since criticized it. He has likened the stadium to a "fake smile," designed to hide social and political problems in struction problems.

China, which hopes to use the Olympics to show off its new political and economic power.

Of China's 37 Olympic venues, the stadium is the last to be completed. There have been minor delays, although organizers have denied con-

## Philippine population growth slows for 1st time in 40 years

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— was a natural tendency in step Population growth in the Philippines, considered one of the highest in the world with a baby born every three minutes, has slowed down for the first time since the 1960s, official data showed Thursday.

The number of Filipinos grew to 88.57 million last year, compared to 76.5 million in 2000, according to the latest census. At the same time, annual population growth dropped from an average of 2.34 percent to 2.04 percent, the National Statistics Office reported.

It projected the growth rate will ease further to 1.95 percent by 2010 in what economists say with economic development.

An average Filipino family has about 5 members. But the growing middle class and more opportunities for education has increasingly led people to delay marriage and families, economists said.

The Asian Development Bank put the Philippines' population growth rate as of 2006 at 2.1 percent, similar to Laos and Malaysia but higher than Thailand's 0.8 percent rate, Vietnam's 1.4 percent, and Indonesia's 1.3 percent. The Philippines ranks as the second most populous country in Southeast Asia next to Indonesia, which has 222 million people.

# At least 44 die when bus plunges into India canal

AHMADABAD,India(AP)—A bus plunged into a canal in western India early Wednesday, killing at least 41 schoolchildren going to take an exam and three others, an official said. Fourteen passengers were missing.

District official Vijay Nehra said 44 bodies had been pulled out of the canal near Vadodara city in Gujarat state, and rescuers were searching for the missing passengers. Four children swam ashore and have been hospitalized, he said.

Earlier, Nehra said at least 45 people had died.

The students from a village school were traveling to an exam when the accident occurred, Nehra said.

The bus driver appeared to have lost control of the vehicle while trying to pass another bus, he said. The vehicle smashed through a concrete barricade and plunged nearly

50 feet into the canal.

The driver was among those killed, said Superintendent of Police Amit Vishwanarain.

The state government ordered a nearby town, Bodeli, to take an inquiry into the accident and rushed medical teams to the scene, 95 miles south of Ahmadabad, the key Gujarat city.

The flow of water into the 20-foot-deep canal from a dam has been stopped to help rescuers locate the missing people, Nehra said.

# Tibetan TV reporter and entertainer are detained

**BEIJING** (AP)—A Tibetan taken his wife into custody. television reporter and entertainer has been detained by Chinese security forces in the wake of last month's anti-government protests across Tibetan areas of the country, her husband said Wednesday.

Jamyang Kyi has worked for state-run Qinghai TV in the western province of the same name for two decades. She also writes and records songs in the Tibetan language and performs abroad, sometimes alongside musicians associated with the Dalai Lama's government-in-exile, which Beijing accuses of orchestrating recent violence.

Her husband, Lamao Jia, told The Associated Press she was first detained on April 1 and has not been seen since April 7. He said he didn't know who had

"Everything is a mess right now," said Lamao Jia, who works at Qinghai TV's entertainment department.

While there was no official confirmation of her detention, Jamyang Kyi appears to be one of the highest profile figures targeted in a wide-ranging crackdown on dissent that followed the widespread protests against Chinese rule.

Jamyang Kyi is not known to have had past trouble with authorities and it wasn't clear what drew their interest this time. However, Beijing maintains strict controls over culture and education among Tibetans.

Chinese state media has reported more than 3,000 people have either answered calls to surrender to police or been

captured, with at least 1,870 released because they committed only minor offenses.

Protests in Lhasa turned violent on March 14, with hundreds of shops torched and Chinese civilians attacked. China says 22 people died in the riots, though the Tibetan government-in-exile says more than 140 people were killed. Xinhua said 94 people were injured in violence from March 14-19 in Gannan, a Tibetan prefecture in Gansu province bordering on the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

There have been about 96 demonstrations since protests began March 10, with all but one of them in Tibet and three neighboring provinces in western China, according to research by Robert Barnett, a Tibet expert at Columbia University.

### **ASIAN BRIEFS**

### **OFW** remittances rise in Feb. to \$1.25B

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— Money sent home by millions of Filipinos working overseas rose nearly 16 percent from a year ago in February as more high-skilled workers left the country, the central bank said Tuesday. The US\$1.25 billion brought remittances in the first two months of 2008 to US\$2.5 billion—15.5 percent higher from the same period last year. The central bank said it expects total remittances this year to rise by about 10 percent from US\$14.45 billion in 2007. Funds remitted by expatriates account for 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product, and have helped pushed the Philippine peso to an eightyear high against the U.S. dollar early this year. About 8 million of the Philippines' population of 90 million work abroad.

### 600 flee erupting **Indonesian volcano** Indonesia JAKARTA,

(AP)—A volcano in eastern Indonesia spewed ash and smoke 2

1/2 miles into the sky, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of nearby villagers, officials said Wednesday. The eruption of Mount Egon on Flores island was caused by magma coming into contact with water, said Surono, a senior government vulcanologist who uses one name. About 600 residents were evacuated from the village closest to the volcano's crater early Wednesday after clouds of debris shot into the sky, he said, urging that masks be distributed immediately to protect people from breathing the ash.

### China upgrades **Everest road ahead** of Olympic torch

ascent BEIJING (AP)—A blacktop road leading to the Mount Everest base camp was completed Wednesday and will be used when the Olympic torch is taken to the peak of the world's tallest mountain, a state news agency reported. Workers spent 10 months widening the 67-mile road, evening the surface and installing guardrails at dangerous spots, the Xinhua News Agency said. The Beijing Olympics

torch relay is the most ambitious in history—an 85,000mile, 130-day route crossing five continents. The ascent to Everest's 29,035-foot summit is considered a highlight and the mountain road was improved to ease the journey.

### **East Timor's** president returns

DILI, East Timor (AP)— President Jose Ramos-Horta has returned to East Timor after recovering from an attempt on his life two months ago. Thousands of supporters were at the airport to welcome the popular Nobel laureate as his plane touched down early Wednesday morning. Ramos-Horta has been recuperating in the northern Australian city of Darwin since February, when mutinous soldiers shot him outside his home in East Timor's capital, Dili. Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao escaped an ambush on his motorcade the same day. The attacks followed more than a year of political turmoil and violence in the tiny nation.

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Proposed Amendment of the Saipan Zoning Law and Official Zoning Map (Rezones)**

We ask your comments on proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 and Official Zoning Maps. The proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law affect many parts of the law including: definitions of terms, exemptions and area of jurisdiction, the types of uses permitted in certain areas (zones), standards (requirements) for temporary uses and roadside merchandise stands, standards for certain uses, building design, signs and lighting, lot line adjustments, subdivisions, road standards, and editorial changes. The proposed amendments to the Official Zoning Map (rezones) are on map sheets 01, 02, 05, 06, 08, 09, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26 and 27.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE	PUBLIC HEARING
TO EXPLAIN THE PROPOSAL:	ON THE PROPOSAL:
Date: April 22,2007 Time: 2:00 pm and repeat at 6:30 pm Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe	Date: April 29, 2008 Time: 6:30 pm Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

The proposed amendments and map changes may be viewed at Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps. The Board will also decide whether to recommend any or all of the amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law for adoption by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and they must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30 pm, April 30, 2008. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.



### **INVITATION TO BIDS** WATER TASK FORCE ITB08-GOV-058



Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the AS MATUIS WATER WELL INTERCONNECTION AND WATER LINE PROJECT in Saipan, Common-

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurers Clearance Certificate (ICC) issued by the Department of Commerce.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds with an ICC clearance. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- 7,700 feet of water main and appurtenances
- Interconnection of six water wells to the As Matuis water system
- Installation of a PRV/PSV and Check Valve Station Connection to the existing water distribution system
- Construction of one access road.

A non-refundable payment of \$150 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after April 21, 2008 at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 a.m., on May 7, 2008, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is not scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 9, no later than **May 6, 2008**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB08-GOV-058". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time May 19, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2-.00 pm local time May 19, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement @pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 19, 2008, and must be received no later than May 29, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 2:00 pm local time, May 30, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 pm local time on May 20, 2008.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Timothy P. Villagomez

/s/ Herman S. Sablan Director, Procurement and Supply

Lieutenant Governor and Contracting Officer

**26** FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# World

### **WORLD BRIEFS**

### AP photographer freed by US after 2 years in custody

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Associated Press photographer Bilal Hussein was reunited with family and colleagues Wednesday, ending more than two years in U.S. military custody after Iraqi judges dropped all legal proceedings against him. Tearful relatives rushed to embrace Hussein, who had been given just a few hours' notice of his release. He thanked co-workers and supporters around the world who had worked on his behalf. "I have spent two years in prison even though I was innocent. I thank everybody," said Hussein, 36, looking healthy and dressed in a brown traditional Iraqi robe.

### **Britain's Brown calls for** action on global economy

NEW YORK (AP)—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown called Wednesday for international action to stabilize the global economy and predicted closer relations between the United States and Europe as divisions over the Iraq war come to an end. On a whirlwind day in New York before heading to Washington, Brown addressed the U.N. Security Council, urging Zimbabwe to ensure that the presidential election isn't "stolen." He then met Mayor Michael Bloomberg and had lunch with leading U.S. bankers and financial executives. Over breakfast with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Kimoon, he discussed Afghanistan, rising food prices, U.N. reforms and a high-level meeting in September on fighting global poverty, U.N. spokeswoman Michele Montas said.

### **Europe urges more oversight** of Iranian nuclear program

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—The European Union has called on Iran to open its nuclear program to greater international scrutiny by joining a treaty that would let other nations review safety at its nearly finished nuclear plant. Slovenia, which holds the EU's rotating presidency, said at a closed conference Monday that Iran should sign the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which lets member nations ask for information about safety programs at each others' facilities. A copy of the Slovenian delegate's remarks was provided to The Associated Press.

# Gaza fighting kills about 20 Palestinians

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israel struck hard against targets in Gaza on Wednesday, killing at least 20 Palestinians in a day of heavy fighting that also saw three Israeli soldiers die in a Hamas ambush.

Among the Palestinian dead was a news cameraman.

The surge in violence came after a relatively quiet month and threatened to unravel an Egyptian effort to mediate a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas.

Wednesday's death toll was the highest since an Israeli military offensive in early March that killed more than 120 Gazans, including dozens of civilians. Since then, Israel and Hamas appeared to be honoring an informal truce, though punctuated with Palestinian rocket attacks, some Israeli airstrikes and border skirmishes.

That changed dramatically Wednesday with no apparent trigger, indicating the relative calm was more coincidence than plan.

In the day's deadliest attack, an Israeli helicopter fired four missiles at targets near the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza, witnesses said. At least 12 Palestinians, including five children aged 12-15, were killed, said Dr. Moaiya Hassanain of the Palestinian Health Ministry.

Reuters cameraman Fadel Shana was killed while filming Israeli tank movements, apparently in an airstrike in the same area. Two bystanders also died.

Other cameramen who rushed to the scene said they saw the Reuters jeep on fire, and Shana's body lying next to it. They said that his ieep was marked "press" and that the cameraman was wearing an identifying flak jacket.

As colleagues rushed toward Shana, another missile was fired, said Wissam Nassar, a photographer with the Maan news agency. "There was an airstrike. We were thrown back, myself and another person."

Dozens of Palestinian journalists converged on the hospital where Shana was pronounced dead. Shocked, many still carrying their cameras, they wept and leaned on each other for support.

The Palestinian Journalists Union called a one-day strike for Thursday to protest the killing.

Despite near daily Israeli-Palestinian violence, casualties among journalists are rare. Only three others have been killed covering the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1992, according to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

Reuters said Shana, 23, was killed by an explosion while covering the Israeli-Palestinian fighting. Reuters Editor-in-Chief David Schlesinger called for an investigation.

# Airstrike kills 4 in Basra, 2 die in Sadr

with Shiite militiamen flared in two cities Wednesday as a U.S. drone fired two missiles in Basra and U.S.-backed Iraqi troops battled in Baghdad's sprawling Sadr City slum.

The airstrike in Basrawhich the military said killed four militants-came after militiamen attacked an Iraqi army patrol with rocket-propelled grenades in the Hayaniyah district, the U.S. military said. A vehicle suspected of containing more weapons and ammunition also was destroyed.

The district has seen some of the fiercest fighting since the Basra offensive began three weeks ago to dislodge militia fighters including antiMahdi Army.

On Wednesday, the Iraqi government said it was replacing two senior military commanders overseeing operations in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city.

Officials insisted the twosecurity army commander Lt. Gen. Mohan al-Fireji and police chief Maj. Gen. Abdul-Jalil Khalaf—had not been fired but were being reassigned to positions in Baghdad after their assignments ended.

The two Iraqi officers will be replaced by new security commander Maj. Gen. Mohammed Jawad Huwaidi and new police chief is Maj. Gen. Adil Daham, officials said.

U.S. officials have praised

BAGHDAD (AP)—Clashes U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki for the determination he showed in confronting the militias, but they have also said the Basra operation was hastily arranged and badly executed. Critics said it highlighted the Iraqi army's poor leadership and the low morale among its rank and file after some 1,000 troops deserted or refused to fight in Basra.

> But the U.S. military said Wednesday that progress was being made.

> "In Basra the Iraqi army forces in particular are finding improved support from the local citizens in terms of tips, in terms of their cooperation," military spokesman Maj. Gen. Kevin Bergner told reporters in Baghdad.

The March 25 offensive Press count.

touched off an uprising by Shiite militias across southern Iraq and in Baghdad's Sadr City district, a stronghold for the Mahdi Army.

Fresh clashes broke out in Sadr City between U.S.-backed Iraqi troops and Shiite militiamen, leaving two men dead and 18 other people wounded, police said.

Also Wednesday, the U.S. military said two Marines were killed by a roadside bomb in western Anbar province. The statement said the blast occurred on Sunday while their vehicle was under attack by enemy fighters.

At least 4,036 American service members have died since the war started in March 2003, according to an Associated

# Spain absorbing shock over new, pregnant defense chief

MADRID, Spain (AP)—Here's an image Spaniards will not soon forget: their new defense minister, reviewing trim, crisply uniformed soldiers, with her baby bump on display.

The surprise appointment of Carme Chacon, age 37 and with no military experience, is the boldest statement yet from a Socialist government that has made gender equality one of its top priorities.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who won re-election in March, unveiled a Cabinet Monday that not only gives Spain its first female defense minister but also features nine women to eight men. That compares to a 50-50 split in his first term, when there were 16 ministers.

Photos of Chacon-who is seven months pregnant reviewing the soldiers ran on the front page of seven national newspapers on Tuesday, and footage of the appearance dominated Spanish television. Her photo was also on the front page of the International Herald Tribune.

Although women's rights advocates have Chacon's appointment, some conservatives have raised objections. A group of retired officers criticized her lack



Spain's defense minister Carme Chacon reviews troops in Madrid, Monday April 14, 2008.

insisting her pregnancy was not a problem.

Chacon is now one of the most visible members of a government that has enacted sweeping social legislation designed to rid traditionally male-dominated Spain of gender discrimination.

It legalized gay marriage, streamlined divorce procedures, forced political parties to field women in the workplace and pressure companies to put more of them in their boardrooms.

This time Zapatero even created a new department, the Equality Ministry, to press these goals. The portfolio went to a 31-year-old woman, Bibiana Aido.

Women's advocacy groups while expecting a baby.

of military background while more female candidates and are delighted with the prime passed a law designed to promote minister's choice of Chacon to oversee a military force that was not even open to women a generation ago. Now 15 percent of its 130,000 troops are women.

> Feminists see a twin statement from the prime minister: Not only can a woman hold a senior position in government or business, but she can do it

# French aghast at new English incursion to their language

PARIS (AP)—To the barricades! That's the message of language purists aghast that the lyrics of France's entry in a hugely popular European song contest are—mon Dieu!—in English.

Critics, including the French government, are adamant: Sebastien Tellier should not perform "Divine" at Eurovision unless it is in French.

"A song represents the soul of a country," said Marc Favre d'Echallens, who heads a group dedicated to defending French against the growing use of English.

"It appears logical that a song

representing France be a French song sung in French," he said, denouncing cultural "uniformity" and the "hegemony" of the English language in the world today.

It's the latest battle in a war France has waged for decades to defend French against the encroachment-some call it the invasion—of the English language.

The televised May 24 Eurovision contest, with entries from Andorra to Russia, drew some 100 million viewers last year when France placed 22 out of 24 finalists, with 19 points.

Serbia's Marija Serifovic

won with 268 points and a heart-wrenching rendition of the ballad "Molitva," or "The Prayer"—sung in her native language.

France's losing entry mixed English and French, with the lyrics "L'amour a la française let's do it again, again, again, again."

Wildly popular in Europe, Eurovision has lifted artists from obscurity to celebrity. ABBA won in 1974 with a song that spoke of another French defeat—"Waterloo." And Celine Dion's win in 1988, singing "Ne Partez Pas Sans Moi" (Don't Leave Without Me),

helped launch her career.

This year's contest features performers from 43 countries. Eurovision bills itself as one of the longest-running television shows in the world, with the first contest in 1956. France has won 14 times.

France's entry, "Divine," with only two lines in Frenchwas chosen by France-3, the public television station.

France's minister for cooperation and Francophonie, or French speakers, issued a strongly worded statement Wednesday reflecting his disapproval.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 **27** 

# Off the Wall

# History, humor in Alaska names from Eek to Sagavanirktok

### **OFFBEAT BRIEFS**

### **Company receives** hundred of 'smelly' gas calls

ERIE, Pa. (AP)—National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp. crews have been busy with a smelly problem in about 850 Erie-area homes. The gas company says too much mercaptan was added to natural gas, prompting hundreds of calls from residents concerned about gas leaks. Mercaptan is a substance added so people can "smell" natural gas, which is actually odorless and colorless in its natural state. The utility started getting calls Monday night and through Tuesday had logged some 850 complaints. By law, the company had to send crews to each home to make sure the problem was just too much mercaptan and not an actual gas leak. NFG officials say crews did find small leaks at a few homes but, in most cases, the extra mercaptan was to blame for the smell.

### **Handcuffed** suspect escapes custody by stealing police car

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Australian police are searching for a burglary suspect who escaped custody by stealing a police car—despite being handcuffed. Police say the 29-year-old man had been detained Tuesday on suspicion of breaking and entering. Two officers handcuffed him and left him in the back of the unmarked police car while they examined a bag outside. The suspect then climbed into the driver's seat and drove away. Police say the keys had been left in the car. The vehicle was found an hour later but the suspect is still at large. An investigation is under way.

### Man dressed as a woman accused of crashing into shop COMMERCE TOWNSHIP,

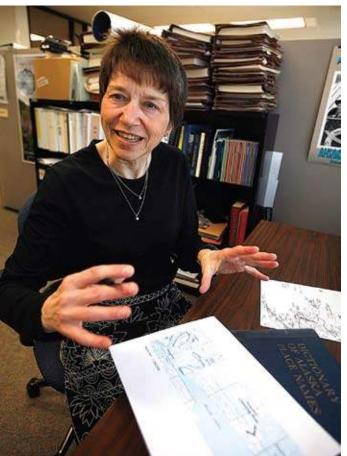
Mich. (AP)—Police say a man dressed as a woman repeatedly crashed his car into a suburban Detroit lingerie store that had refused to hire him earlier this year. Oakland County Undersheriff Michael McCabe said Jeremy McIntosh, 27, was arrested Saturday night outside the Intimate Ideas store in Commerce Township, 25 miles northwest of Detroit. Damage to the store was estimated at \$3,000. McCabe said McIntosh was wearing "facial makeup, lipstick, blue Capri pants, red 'flip-flops,' a flowery blouse and a matching flowery women's bra."

### ANCHORAGE,

(AP)—Who lost it on Lost Temper Creek? What horror befell the village of Eek? Does it have anything to do with another town being Chicken?

Native traditions and colorful settlers have given Alaska an extra helping of oddly named bingoi Dunes or Dakeekathlrimjingia Point, unpronounceable and unexplained other than being of Eskimo origin. Then there's Sagavanirktok, a North Slope river named after an Eskimo word for strong current.

"It just rolls off your



ed in the Dictionary of Alaska Place Names in her office in Anchorage, Alaska Friday, April 11, 2008.

said Donald Orth, a retired geographer and cartographer with the U.S. Geological Survev. He wrote the book on Alaska place names more than four decades ago, and now that book is getting freshened up.

"Dictionary of Alaska Place Names," published by the USGS in 1967 and reprinted with minor revisions in 1971, is an enormous guide though the mundane and the quirky.

An Anchorage-based publisher plans to create an updated version of Orth's long-out-ofTodd Communications, hopes to have it out by 2009.

Supplements to Orth's thousand-plus-page monograph were published until 1994, listing additional place names recognized by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

All place names in the U.S. can be viewed online on the board's Web site, but there's no way to peruse the entire text for the simple pleasure of discovering the stories behind odd or whimsical names.

That's a deficiency that downstream and disappeared.

print book. Flip Todd, owner of needs fixing as far as Todd is concerned.

> "There are still too many advantages in this low-tech device called a book," he said.

> In the original, Orth included variant names and sometimes humorous stories behind many geographic monikers.

> Mishap Creek, aka Big Loss Creek, is Unimak Island stream named for a lighthouse keeper who stripped naked to cross the water, then tried to throw his clothes to the other side, only to watch helplessly as they landed

# Oregon man thinks his black Labrador is doggie impostor

LAKE OSWEGO, Ore. (AP)—Ken Griggs likes his new dog, but he preferred the old one. Then again, it might be the same dog. In a possible case of mistaken identity, Griggs said the black Labrador named Callie that he left at a Dundee kennel before spring break was not the same dog he picked up a week later.

"It's a sweet dog," Griggs said of the impostor living at his Lake Oswego house. "It's tough because now we've had the dog for 10-plus days, and the kids, especially the younger ones, start to get attached to the dog. I like it, but I want mine."

Allison Best, owner of the Tail Wag-Inn boarding kennel, said Griggs has the right black Labs all said they had Griggs had just returned.

dog. But Callie's vet examined the dog Griggs brought home and found evidence that it's not Callie.

"We know it's not Callie," veterinarian Andrea Frost told The Oregonian newspaper.

Griggs said he immediately noticed differences in the dog he picked up from the kennel. The family cat—normally friends with Callie—hissed at the dog. Callie would heel; this dog did not.

Griggs returned the dog to the kennel and Best examined whether Callie might have gotten mixed-up with any of the other black Labradors staying there that week.

Owners of the seven other

the right dog.

However, the owner of Dixie, a dog Callie shared a kennel with, said her dog had undergone a "personality change," Best said. But after three or four conversations that day, the owner maintained she had the right dog.

Still, Best arranged for the owners and their dogs to meet March 31 for a possible exchange. The woman called saying she was late, Best said.

Meanwhile, Griggs had arrived with his family. A black Lab got excited when the Griggses approached, the kids declared it was Callie, and into the car the dog went.

It was the same dog the





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**28** FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Science & Technology

# Big not always best with networking

NEW YORK (AP)—Forget Facebook, MySpace or any other online hangout that boasts tens or hundreds of millions of

For Teresa Munoz, Athlinks (population: 34,000) is the place to be. She uses the community devoted to competitive running, swimming and biking events to find training partners and get advice, including information about her first Ironman triathlon.

Munoz, 45, of Hacienda Heights, Calif., said she tried finding like-minded people on MySpace, but found only those "looking for people to date, not really there for the sport. I didn't get as much out of that."

MySpace, Facebook and, to a smaller degree, Bebo may be getting most of the attention, but social-networking sites geared toward hobbies, sports and other interests—alongside specific those targeting certain age groups, ethnicities or diseases—are finding growing success as supplements to the larger online hangouts or even as replacements.

Katie Ellis, 23, an Athlinks user from Phoenix, said she likes the fact that the site automatically generates rivals, alongside friends, based on races in which they have unknowingly competed together. A competitor at heart, Ellis said she often peeks at their race times and notes how often she had beaten them.

Why not MySpace or Facebook? Ellis said that after seeing her older brother use both, she's concluded "I think it's a waste of time."

Like MySpace and Facebook, the free sites are largely generating revenue through advertising. As the larger sites struggle to capitalize on their diverse membership, the specialty sites believe they can offer advertisers a smaller, but passionate audience for which they'd be willing to pay more—as much as 10 times more, Athlinks estimates.

The popularity of such niches goes to show that big isn't always better.

Though the larger sites let users create groups on any topic or interest, finding the right groups and identifying the most dedicated members can be daunting.

"What happens is a medium reaches a point where the users of it start to think it's interesting but it's too big, there are too many people, it's too difficult to find what I'm interested in." said Steve Jones, a University of Illinois at Chicago professor who tracks Internet culture.

It happened with television. It happened with magazines. It's now happening with the Internet and social-networking sites.

ActiveBoating.com has fewer than 200 members congregating around recreational boating, but the site's vice president, Randy



Katie Ellis, 23, a tri-athlete and Athlinks user, poses for a photo Tuesday, April 15, 2008 in Tempe, Ariz.

Young, said he'd rather have the most passionate 200 than a million with only passing interest.

The 1 million users on Goodreads can find one another based on specific books they have read, are reading or want to read—the "compare books" feature returns the percentage of matches between two users' virtual bookshelves. On News Corp.'s MySpace and Facebook, search is limited to specific keywords or titles.

them friend invitations," said Laura Stamps, 51, an author and Goodreads user in Columbia, S.C. "That may be one reason why my (nearly 500 friends) are so chatty. We love the same books."

Ravelry has become so popular among knitters and crochet lovers that users must wait months before getting off the waiting list for membership.

Those who make it on can share patterns they have created along with ideas on what they

"This is invaluable research for someone who is about to invest many dollars and hours of their life in a knitting project," said Mary-Helen Ward, 56. "It certainly cuts down the chances of expensive disappointment."

Ward said Ravelry offers depth and breadth on knitting like no other social network. After all, where else could the eLearning project manager at the University of Sydney find "Ivory Tower Fiber Freaks,"

### "I find the people who loved can make with the specific types a forum devoted to academics the same novels I did and send of yarn they own. who knit? 'The Sims' sells 100 million copies worldwide

**NEW YORK** (AP)—There are no scary monsters to slay, no enemies to shoot and no cars to hijack. But "The Sims" video and computer game has sold 100 million units since its launch in

Long the world's top-selling game for computers, "The Sims" is also available on Sony Corp.'s PlayStation 2, the Nintendo Co. Wii and other platforms—but it remains most popular on PCs.

The 100-million mark, which publisher Electronic Arts Inc. announced Wednesday, puts "The Sims" in the ranks of blockbuster franchises such as Nintendo's Mario and Pokemon games, which have sold more than 201 million and 175 million units respectively, as well as Take-Two Interactive Software Inc.'s "Grand Theft Auto" series, which has sold more than 65 million copies.

In "The Sims," which can be played online or not, players create homes and businesses for and guide the day-to-day lives of "Sims" characters. It has been published in 60 countries and 22 languages. Its creator, Will Wright, is one of the video game industry's best regarded brains-though he's no longer involved with the title.

Following the game's launch eight years ago, it quickly crossed over from core gamers



to a wide audience. Today 60 percent of the game's players nated by first-person shooters Broadway musical "Rent." and titles aimed at 20-something men and teenage boys.

"It's appealing to a large market that core video games have traditionally ignored," said Colin Sebastian, an analyst with Lazard Capital Markets.

Nancy Smith, who leads EA's Sims Label, said players find a welcome release in creating a world for their characters. She called it a "very creative sandbox" with a quirky humor that shines through when players can't always make their characters do what they should.

Fans have uploaded more than 100,000 "Sims" movies to YouTube—which Smith said is

another testament to the players' creativity. Videos include are women, still a rarity among a "Sims" version of Michael video games, which are domi- Jackson's "Thriller" and the

The game has ad partnerships with Ford and clothing retailer H&M, and its online community has 4.2 million unique visitors each month, the company said. It even has its own language, Simlish, formed by mixing parts of Ukrainian, Navajo and other languages.

"'The Sims' helped usher in a new type of virtual social game play, and with the increase in online gaming and multiplayer gaming, the social aspect and appeal of gaming is quite evident," said Anita Frazier, toys and video games analyst at market researcher NPD Group, in an e-mail.

### Google adapts copyright-ID technology for child-porn fight

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The fight against child pornography is getting an assist from technology designed by Google Inc. to help identify copyright-protected clips on its YouTube videosharing site.

Four Google employees used their "20 percent time"—during which the company encourages them to pursue unofficial, out-of-thebox projects—to customize the copyright software for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's program for identifying children in sexually explicit photos and video.

Software already has been used to match known images, but when new ones are submitted by law enforcement and service providers, analysts generally make identifications manually, often based on recollections. The center has recently employed facialrecognition technology to make those IDs easier, but with limited success.

With the new Google tools, analysts can also seek matches based on other attributes, such as the color and shape of a couch or the wallpaper pattern in the background of a photo.

Ernie Allen, the center's president, appreciates the new tool.

The center used to be "dependent on the memory of the analyst who was already overwhelmed by the sheer number of content we were receiving," he said, adding that its 11 analysts processed 5 million child-pornography images last year.

Allen said the center's work helps prosecutors build evidence and police locate children who have been forced to engage in sexual acts.

Google's contribution grew out of an existing partnership between the center and leading technology companies, including Yahoo Inc., Time Warner Inc.'s AOL and Microsoft Corp.

"The keys here were organization, scalability and search," Google research scientist Shumeet Baluja wrote about the project on a company blog. "In particular, the tools we provided will aid in organizing and indexing NCMEC's information so that analysts can both deal with new images and videos more efficiently and also reference historical material more effectively."

### Army to use portable polygraphs with suspects and base visitors

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—U.S. Army soldiers in Afghanistan are getting portable detectors aimed to help determine whether suspects in roadside bombings or people looking to enter military bases are telling the truth about their intentions.

The devices, which each cost \$7,500, are not full-blown polygraphs—or lie detectors, said Donald Krapohl, special assistant to the director at the Defense Academy for Credibility Assessment, the Fort Jackson-based agency that helped design

The Preliminary Credibility Assessment Screening Systems will be among several tests the Army uses to decide if a person is truthful, Krapohl said. He said the Army has bought 94.

The use of the devices was first reported by MSNBC.com, which also raised questions about the Army's test of their reli-

Krapohl said the defense academy was sending a team to train soldiers in Afghanistan how to use the devices in the next few

"The role of the PCASS (device) was as a screening thing at the front of the pipeline," he told The Associated Press.

The device connects sensors placed on an interviewee's hand that measure stress and heart rate to a pocket-sized computer about the size of an old handheld video game player.

After a questioner queries a subject and punches in his answers, the device shows a green light if it determines the person is truthful, red if not and yellow if its results are inconclusive.

Krapohl said a field test at Fort Jackson with soldiers who planted fake bombs and then were interviewed about it produced an 80 percent success rate, after setting aside inconclusive results. A second, independent test returned correct results 92 percent of the time, he said.

"We found the accuracies are suitable to the role which it was intended," he said.

Not everyone agrees.

Carnegie Mellon University Professor Stephen E. Fienberg told MSNBC.com that the military's studies did not properly simulate the stresses that would be seen during combat.

# Blogs by the numbers

By ANDREW RATNER

Name some of the biggest newspapers and magazines in the country? You probably couldn't help but get a few of them right.

Name some of the largest Web sites? Again, you'd probably guess correctly on at least a couple, even if you didn't think you knew for sure.

Now name one of the biggest blogs?

Good luck.

Blogs collectively are forging transformative change in the way people get information and communicate, but at this point, the whole is much greater than the sum of the parts.

The 10 largest U.S. blogs in the most recent measure by Nielsen Online totaled about 80 million unique visitors in February. It's an impressive number, and up about 50 percent from a year earlier—although to put it in perspective, it's a little smaller than the total audience for two nights' worth of "American Idol" and "Dancing With the Stars."

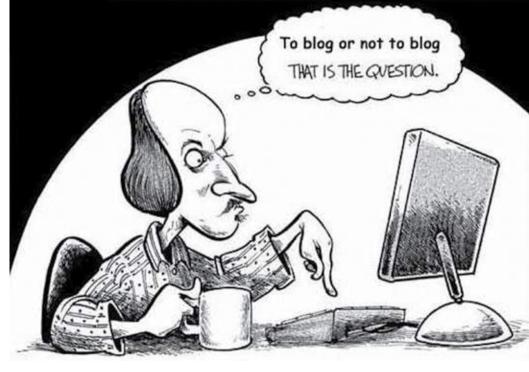
Here's a rundown of the 10 biggest blogs; the names are probably not going to win many bar bets:

### ■ **BLOGGER** (37.2 million visitors in February)

The most popular blog sites are the ones used to build blogs. I guess that makes sense, although it's a little like saying the largest-circulation daily publication isn't USA Today, but the tree farm that supplies its newsprint. Anyway, Blogger was one of the first sites dedicated to blog publishing when it launched in 1999. Google bought it from San Franciscobased Pyra Labs in 2003.

■ WORDPRESS (16.5 million)

Another free blog-publishing



site. It's an "open source" site, meaning that people working with it continue to shape and improve it. Trivia: Each new version is named for a jazz artist. Version 2.5, which came out last month, is called Brecker (for saxophonist and composer Michael Brecker).

### ■ SIX APART TYPEPAD (9.6 million)

A paid blog hosting site, so it doesn't rely on advertising. Subscribers pay from \$50 to \$900 a year based on whether they want an individual or business account with various customized design and storage features.

### **■ TMZ** (8.1 million)

It's counted as a blog, although it's arguably one of the most influential Web sites in transforming the media this decade. Its numerous scoops in the "30-mile zone" around Hollywood, most spectacularly the Mel Gibson DUI arrest in 2006, forced traditional media to pay more attention to competition from new media -- and to celebrity gossip news. Tmz.com

# PC shipments post double-digit rise as US lags behind BOSTON (AP)—Anemic U.S. cent, overseas gains boosted

growth didn't prevent computer global first-quarter PC shipmakers from posting another ments 14.6 percent, according double-digit gain in shipments worldwide in the first quarter, according to two technology research firms that both said the increase beat their forecasts.

IDC and Gartner Inc. on Wednesday also said Dell Inc.'s recent initiative to offer computers in retail stores is helping it gain ground on Hewlett-Packard Co., which wrestled the title of world's largest PC maker from Dell in late 2006.

Both firms ranked Dell the U.S. market leader, however, with about 31 percent of the market to HP's nearly 25 percent.

Even with growth in U.S. sales slowing to around 3 perto IDC, and to 12.3 percent by Gartner's count. That's because the U.S. accounted for just 23 percent of global shipments in the first quarter compared with 25 percent a year ago.

"Even if there is a particularly bad U.S. market, it's becoming a smaller piece of the global puzzle," said Bob O'Donnell, an IDC vice president.

IDC estimated Palo Alto, Calif.-based HP's global market share at 19.1 percent and Round Rock, Texas-based Dell's share at 15.7 percent. Gartner estimated an 18.3 percent share for HP, compared to 14.9 percent for Dell.

is owned by AOL and led by managing editor Harvey Levin, formerly a TV legal reporter in L.A. and executive producer of "The People's Court."

### **■**THEHUFFINGTONPOST (3.7 million)

A liberal online Web site and

blog founded by Arianna Huffington, a syndicated columnist who made an unsuccessful bid as an independent candidate for governor of California in 2003. HuffPost is one of the most popular political blogs, with links to various news sources and columnists. There was

month when it beat out the conservative-leaning Drudge Report, by Nielsen's measure, for the first time.

### ■ LIVEJOURNAL (3.7 million)

It's a virtual community where users can keep a blog, journal or diary. Last year, a Russian media company, SUP, bought the company for a reported \$30 million, stirring blog headlines such as "Who Will Save LiveJournal from the Kremlin?" LiveJournal features its own online "shop" with logo sweatshirts and "ecofriendly" T-shirts. If you need another measure of the swiftness of technological change, consider blogs now creating their own clothing lines.

### ■ **GADLING** (3.6 million)

It's a travel log, more like a compilation of bizarre stories related to traveling. Gadling, meaning roving vagabond, is part of group of blogs called Weblogs Inc. that America Online bought in 2005, reportedly for \$25 million. Blogs have the reputation as mom-and-pop in-

some tongue-clucking last dependent upstarts. But the largest of them are no less big media -- and these days more profitable -- than big media itself.

### ■ THATSFIT (2.4 million)

A gossipy "healthy living" blog, it's similar to Gadling and also a Weblog offshoot now owned by AOL. Recent headlines: "Mouthwash may be causing your bad breath" and "What your sleep position says about you."

### ■ XANGA (2.1 million)

A host for Web logs and social networking profiles with particular appeal for young people, with free and higher-end paid versions. It was fined \$1 million in 2006 for violating federal law by repeatedly allowing children under 13 to sign up without parental consent, and tightened control in response.

### **■ ENGADGET** (2.1 million)

A tech blog on consumer electronics, it's also part of the Weblogs AOL group. For technophiles, a leaked secret about a new gadget can be as big a deal as the latest dish about Britney.

# Karaoke that lets you compete

By MIKE MUSGROVE

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Simon Cowell thinks I'm awesome.

"You are a natural, a complete and utter natural," raves the "American Idol" judge, after I croon the '70s-era song "Come Sail Away" into my Xbox 360.

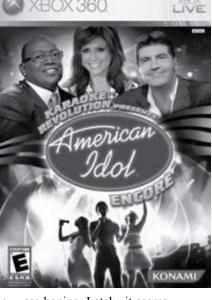
"You're one of the best we've ever had," he offers, after a performance of the grunge-era "Black Hole Sun.'

Cowell isn't famous for flattery, of course, unless you turn the settings way

down to "easy" on a new video game based on the TV show. Then you can get away with quite a bit of tone-deafness. Personal note to Randy J.: I love you too, dawg.

American Idol Encore is one of the latest video games that Arts has even launched a soinvite players to plug a microphone, rather than a game controller, into their home system. It's like karaoke: Pick a song and follow the notes represented by horizontal bars that whiz by on your TV screen, along with the words. The game tells vou whether vou're in tune. Hit the right notes, and you win points; go off key for too long, and you might get booted off the virtual stage.

Singing games have been around for a while, but this could be a breakthrough year for the genre — at least, that's what some game companies



are hoping. Lately, it seems big-box electronics stores have a wide range of titles for almost every contemporary music taste, from High School Musical to hard rock. Game publisher Electronic cial-networking site where users post and rate each other's performances. One of the biggest video-

game phenoms of the moment, Rock Band, riffs off the success of the Guitar Hero series by throwing in a microphone with guitar and drum game controllers. Where Guitar Hero appeals to the guitar-playing wannabe, Rock Band, as the name suggests, completes the band. Despite the game's hefty \$170 price tag, the

lion units this holiday season. There are more sing-along

set quickly sold more than 1 mil-

games on the way: This week marks the debut of the latest sing-along entry in Sony's SingStar series, exclusively for PlayStation consoles.

While other singing games display an avatar busting moves to the music, the gimmick with this series is that it plays a song's original video as your friends sing in head-to-head or duet modes. Previous versions of the series have had an '80s theme or been based on more current pop songs from the likes of Avril and Britney. The latest version, SingStar 90s, features

tions" among consumers.

Reese said the company hopes the game's broad appeal will help its game consoles crack a more mainstream market of consumers.

"We see this as appealing to a new audience for us,' said Reese. "It really serves to bring in nontraditional gamers.

In a few months, Sony is set to launch the first PlayStation 3 version of the SingStar games, along with an online store for the game. While the SingStar games have been limited in holding about 30 tracks on each game disc, the PS3's hard drive will allow

> fans to buy and download as many songs as they like. Fans will also be able to upload their recordings.

> EA has a new-ish social networkingstyle site based on karaoke, called the Sims on Stage, where users occasionally win perks from EA such as concert tickets. The company wouldn't say exactly how

large its community is so far, but EA Vice President Ranah Edelin said users are posting thousands of new recordings every day.

"Not being a (good) singer doesn't mean you can't get up and sing," said Edelin. "As some of our users have shown."

songs from Chumbawamba and R.E.M. The franchise has sold 11 million copies worldwide.

Sony doesn't seem to like it much if you refer to SingStar as a karaoke game in conversation. Jeff Reese, Sony's director of software marketing, says the k-word has "negative connota**30** FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Island Snapshots



### **FEDERALIZATION FORUM**

ACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

From left, Philippine Consul general Wilfredo Maximo, Federal Labor Ombudsman Jim Benedetto and Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski listen to questions from nonresident workers during the federalization forum at the Filipino Workers' Resource Center of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe Wednesday night last week.



## 'HIGHLY PERFORMING

CHAPTER'

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter was recently recognized by the American Red Cross at its National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. Over the past year the NMI Chapter has achieved a "Highly Performing" Chapter status. This status is awarded to Chapters that consistently achieve performance that is outstanding in several critical service delivery and governance areas. Only about 13 percent of all Red Cross Chapter throughout nation and its territories are operating at this level. Pictured are Kate Forbes, National Chair of volunteers; Lou Johnson, NMI Chapter Board member; Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, chair of the National Board of Governors; Larry Lee, chair of the NMI Chapter Board. For more information about the NMI Chapter and how to get involved, call 234-3459 or visit www.nmi.redcross.org. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### STATUS FORUM

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

TaoTao Tano president Greg Cruz, legal counsel to the administration Deanne Siemer, Dekada leader Boni Sagana, and MOVER's Ernest Maicle listen to the comments during the discussion forum on a possible longer-term residence status for qualified foreign workers at the San Vicente Elementary School Thursday night.



## NEW IMMIGRATION OFFICERS

Superior Court Presiding Judge
Robert Naraja administers the
oath for seven of the new eight
newly hired Immigration officers
yesterday. Of the eight, five will
work on Tinian to beef up the
island's enforcement.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE





### **USS INGRAHAM**

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The USS *Ingraham* (FFG-61), a 4,100-ton and 453-foot guided missile frigate is seen docked at the Port of Saipan upon their arrival Wednesday. The *Ingraham* carries 226 officers and crewmembers and will stay on the island until April 20. It is homeported in Everett, Washington, and is the fourth ship of the United States Navy to be named for Captain Duncan Ingraham.



### **CAROLINIAN LANGUAGE SYMPOSIUM**

CNMI junior and high school students and other participants are seen through a Carolinian mwar-mwar as they listen to the speakers during the 2008 2nd Annual Refaluwasch Language Symposium hosted by the Carolinian Affairs Office at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The three-day festivity, which is slated from April 16-18, will focus on celebrating the Refaluwasch culture and traditions. The event also features presentation, forum, craft display and traditional performances.



### **NEW ARRIVALS**

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Japanese tourists arrive at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport via Northwest Airlines Wednesday afternoon.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 **31** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Life & Style

PWS introduces Saipan to Carlsberg



Velma Fleming, Mark Lim, Anneliese Wenden, PWS general manager Dan Matsuno. Tan Holdings' Ivan Quichocho, Rowena, Orleyne Tabucanon and Orissa Lee gather for a photo during the special event.



Pacific Wines and Spirits' Orleyne Tabucanon joins Saipan World Resort's F&B director/executive chef Yong Su Kim, Das Krishnan, and PIC's Olan Cruz during the launching of the Carlsberg premium pilsner beer at the Pacific Islands Club Seaside Grill Tuesday night.

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Photos by JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Discovery of the week: Oysters warmed over hot coals and driz-

zled with a squeeze of lemon and

vinegar is the perfect accompani-

ment to beer, preferably a dark

pilsner such as a bottle of Carls-

berg. The roasted malt flavor of

the medium-bodied Carlsberg is

a lively counterpoint to the oys-

ter's strong salty taste, the bitter-

sour combination doing a lively

Even more perfect: a bottle of

chilled Carlsberg, a plateful of

oysters, a view of the sun sink-

ing over the Saipan lagoon, a

slight cool breeze dancing over

the waters, and good conver-

sation among friends. That's where I found myself last Tues-

day, at the beachside of Pacific

Islands Club's Seaside Grill, during the launch of Carlsberg

Hosted by Pacific Wines and

Spirits, the early evening affair

was heralded by an invitation

that promised "sumptuous pupus,

light entertainment, a superior

sunset & the crisp taste of Carls-

berg." I couldn't resist. They had

me at "sumptuous pupus," al-

though I had to ask PWS' Orleyne

Tabucanon what "pupus" was.

Anything unknown is always an

premium pilsner beer.

rumba on one's palate.



Tan Holdings Corp.'s Ivan Quichocho, Pacific Islands Club Saipan Director of Sales & Marketing Kanae Quinn, and Century Tours Henry Pun.





Pacific Wine & Spirits Orleyne Tabucanon with Hafadai Beach Hotel's comptroller Kazunoni Yabuki and executive chef Toshio Obata



General Manager of the Pacific Islands Club Kieran Daly, Marianas Eye Institute CEO Russ Quinn and special guests.



Clearly I wasn't the only one intrigued. Hotel GMs from all over the island were present in Tuesday's affair, accompanied by Food and Beverage directors and managers and a lot of other island movers and shakers, who

all helped themselves to the great food and the free-flowing beer. The light spread—grilled oysters, shrimp tempura, barbecued beef and chickencouldn't be replenished fast enough and PWS even went so far as providing mini-beer

barrel dispensers at each table so guests could just help themselves to glass after glass of the excellent beverage.

As an added touch, all the PWS staff were dressed in custom-made green shirts or dresses, carrying on the trademark motif of the Carlsberg brand. The light entertainment came in the form of PIC's resident band, Fat Joy Slim (Patz and Joy on vocals, Joel on lead guitar and James on percussion).

The star of the night itself bottle after bottle of Carslberg



Tony Roma's and Capricciosa general manager

Akira Onishi with staff.

Carlsberg premium pilsner beers are displayed during its launching.

"It's the yeast and aroma hops used that makes Carlsberg unique. It's signature yeast was developed and perfected in 1883 and has been used ever since to provide the classic Carslberg taste," it said.

The packaging itself didn't hurt, the dark green bottle with the embossed name of Carlsberg on the side making an elegant container for such an elegant beer. (The Carlsberg logo was developed in 1904 and the crown on the logo represents the brand's association with the Royal Danish Court.)

Royal or not, the beer's debut on the island was an unqualified success, with guests staying well beyond the 8:30pm cutoff. The makers of Carlsberg may actually have gotten it right: Carlsberg is probably the best beer in the world.



DFS' Ben Babauta, Hard Rock Café Saipan operations manager Aldwin Cullat and special quests.



Pacific Wine & Spirits general manager Dan Matsuno with Hyatt Regency Saipan executives.



PIC in-house band Fat Joy Slim serenade the night with their acoustic renditions of old and new songs.

# Bush, big crowd greet pope on birthday

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush and Pope Benedict XVI agreed Wednesday that terrorism is an unacceptable weapon for any cause or religion, standing strongly united on that issue but divided on others during a day of substance and symbolism at the White House.

The festive White House visit was the highlight of the first full day of Benedict's first trip to the United States as leader of the world's Roman Catholics. A South Lawn arrival ceremony which also turned into a celebration for Benedict's 81st birthday, complete with energetic singing and a several-tiered cake prepared by the White House pastry chef—was followed by 45 minutes of private talks between Bush and Benedict, alone in the Oval Office.

It was the 25th meeting between a Roman Catholic pope and a U.S. president, sessions that have spanned 89 years, five pontiffs and 11 American leaders.

Bush and Benedict share much common ground, particularly in opposing abortion, gay marriage and embryonic stem cell research.

But they disagree over the war in Iraq, the death penalty and the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba. Benedict also speaks for environmental protection and social welfare in ways that run counter to Bush policies.

A joint U.S.-Holy See statement hinted that Benedict brought up his concerns about the damage caused by punitive immigration laws. It said the leaders discussed "the need for a coordinated policy regarding immigration, especially their humane treatment and the well being of their families."

On Iraq, discussion steered away from the war itself to focus primarily on worries for the Christian minority in the Muslim-majority country, said White House press secretary Dana Perino.

Other topics included human rights, religious freedom, fighting poverty and disease in Africa, the Israeli-Palestinian dis-

pute, Lebanon and terrorism.

"The two reaffirmed their total rejection of terrorism as well as the manipulation of religion to justify immoral and violent acts against innocents," the statement said.

It also said the leaders "touched on the need to confront terrorism with appropriate

means that respect the human person and his or her rights," a reference Perino could not explain. Benedict has been critical of harsh interrogation methods, telling a meeting of the Vatican's office for social justice last September that, while a country has an obligation to keep its citizens safe, prisoners must never be demeaned or tortured.

One topic not mentioned as a subject of discussion was the clergy sex abuse scandal that has devastated the American church since 2002. But a private meeting later Wednesday between Benedict and American bishops at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was being closely watched for discussion on the pontiff's tripopening promise to "do everything possible to heal this wound."

second White

House visit by a pope—the first was 29 years ago-and Bush elected to honor it with a level of pageantry rarely seen even on grounds accustomed to routinely welcoming the world's most important leaders.

Lampposts fluttered with flags in the red-white-and-blue of America and yellow-and-

white of the Holy See. The sun-drenched South Lawn was filled to bursting with the largest crowd of Bush's presidency, requiring a large television screen for those in the back. An East Room state dinner was planned for the evening, featuring Bavarian-style food in honor of Benedict's German heritage,

colonial garb.

The pontiff had said he was

tional anthem of the Holy See while a 21-gun salute sprayed gray smoke. Famed American soprano Kathleen Battle sang "The Lord's Prayer." The U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps marched by, dressed in

looking forward to meeting a



President Bush and Pope Benedict XVI stand on the South Lawn of the White House in Wash- House in his glass-It was only the ington, Wednesday, April 16, 2008, during an arrival ceremony for the Pope.

even though Benedict himself would be a no-show because of the prayer service with bishops.

Benedict's arrived to a warm welcome from Bush and his wife, Laura. The two leaders strolled along a red carpet to a platform set up on the lawn, and sat stiffly side-by-side as the Marine Band played the na-

"great people and a great church" during his six-day trip to Washington and New York City. The papal journey coincides not just with Benedict's birthday, but the three-year anniversary of his ascendancy atop the Roman Catholic Church. Nurturing the U.S. flock is a sensitive and important mis-

just of ongoing scandal in the American church but amid his campaign to tamp down secularism and re-ignite faith.

"I trust that my presence will be a source of renewal and hope for the church in the United States and strengthens the resolve of Catholics to contribute

> even more responsibly to the life of this nation of which they are proud to be citizens," Benedict said at Bush's side.

The love, both in the audience and outside the White House gates, was evident.

The enthralled South Lawn crowd of more than 13,500 "Happy Birthday"—twice, once spontaneously early in the ceremonies with a formal, more full-throated version at the end. A few yelled "Viva il Papa." Four toddlers sat on the grass with handmade signs, one reading "We love you pope of hope" and the other showing a birthday cake-chocolatewith an 81 on it.

In Washington's streets, thousands who were unable to get tickets played music and waved banners as they waited for any glimpse of the pontiff. Benedict didn't disappoint, leaving the White walled Mercedes popemobile for a

slow cruise along Pennsylvania Avenue, accompanied by a long motorcade and the pontiff waving from his perch inside.

In brief remarks on the South Lawn. Bush showed off America, ticking off what he said are its best virtues, calling it a nation of prayer and compassion and one that is the most "innovative,

sion for Benedict at a time not creative and dynamic country on Earth" but also among the most religious.

But while acting like the proud custodian of his country, Bush also seemed to suggest that America could use a little tough talking-to by the pontiff.

"In a world where some treat life as something to be debased and discarded, we need your message that all human life is sacred and that each of us is willed, each of us is loved, and each of us is necessary," the president said, drawing sustained applause.

Bush also Americans should see Benedict's U.S. tour as a reminder to "distinguish between simple right and wrong."

"We need your message to reject this dictatorship of relativism and embrace a culture of justice and truth," Bush said. "In a world where some see freedom as simply the right to do as they wish, we need your message that true liberty requires us to live our freedom not just for ourselves."

Adela Arguello, a Department of Homeland Security worker from Miami was touched. "We're living in very terrible times and any message like this is important," she said. "He needed to come."

"How often in life do you get to sing Happy Birthday to the pope?" said Brenda Hawk, a Sunday school teacher from Centreville, Va. "Even if you're not Catholic, it's darn cool!"

Across from the White House, though, the papal visit drew a protest of about 200. With one demonstrator dressed as the pope, the crowd held signs criticizing celibacy and a large banner reading "100,000 sexually abused kids in the US."

The president kicked off the unprecedented series of papal festivities on Tuesday, by motoring to Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington to meet Benedict's plane, something he's never done for any leader. While the pontiff received a rock-star reception on the tarmac, Bush stood back in the unusual role of second fiddle.

# MIT prof Edward Lorenz, father of chaos theory, dies at 90

Edward Lorenz, the father of chaos theory, died at his home in Cambridge, Mass., Wednesday. He was 90.

He was a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology when he came up with the scientific concept that small effects lead to big changes, something that became known as the "butterfly effect." He explained how something as minuscule as a butterfly flapping its wings in Brazil changes the constantly moving atmosphere in ways that could later trigger tornadoes in Texas.

istic chaos" brought about "one of the most dramatic changes in mankind's view of nature since Sir Isaac Newton," said the committee that awarded Lorenz the 1991 Kyoto Prize for basic sciences. It was one of many scientific awards that Lorenz won. There is no Nobel Prize for his specific field of expertise, meteorology.

Jerry Mahlman, a longtime friend, noted that the man who pioneered chaos theory was "the most organized person I ever knew."

Lorenz came up with the chaos theory concept in the 1960s work habits, said Kevin Trenberth, a student of Lorenz's. Trenberth is now climate analysis chief at the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

He inadvertently ran what seemed like the same calculations through a creaky computer twice and came up with vastly different answers. When he tried to figure out what happened, he noticed a slight decimal point change—less than 0.0001—wound up leading to significant error. That error became a seminal scientific paper, presented in 1972, about the butterfly effect.

WASHINGTON (AP)— His discovery of "determinthrough his own meticulous Lorenz was "the quiet geek" Alan Plumb. who turned the old concept of "wiggle room" into hard numbers and scientific theory, said Mahlman, a retired federal climate scientist. Meteorologists today base their forecasts on his techniques. Lorenz's 1967 book "The Nature and Theory of the General Circulation of the Atmosphere" is considered a classic textbook in meteorology.

The concept of small changes turning into big effects also influenced many basic sciences. Other fields probably benefited more than meteorology, said MIT meteorology professor

Lorenz also was incredibly quiet. Getting him to talk was painfully difficult, his colleagues said, except around his late wife, Jane. He rarely wrote papers with others.

"Of all the geniuses of that era, he was the quietest and most humble and the most kind," said Mahlman.

Lorenz was born in West Hartford, Conn., in 1917 and later wrote in a biographical sketch: "As a boy I was always interested in doing things with numbers and was also fascinated by changes in the weather."

He had degrees from Dart-

mouth College and Harvard University as well as MIT where he joined the meteorology staff in 1948. He later became department head and retired in 1987.

In 1983, with a colleague, he won the \$50,000 Crafoord Prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which recognizes leaders in scientific fields not eligible for a Nobel.

Lorenz was an avid hiker and climber, who well into his 80s would "put many younger people to shame in terms of his fitness and love of going into the mountains," Trenberth said.

Lorenz is survived by three children.



# The Boss endorses Obama

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rock star Bruce Springsteen endorsed Democratic Sen. Barack Obama for president Wednesday, saying "he speaks to the America I've envisioned in my music for the past 35 years."

In a letter addressed to friends and fans posted his Web site, Springsteen said he believes Obama is the best candidate to undo "the terrible damage done over the past eight years."

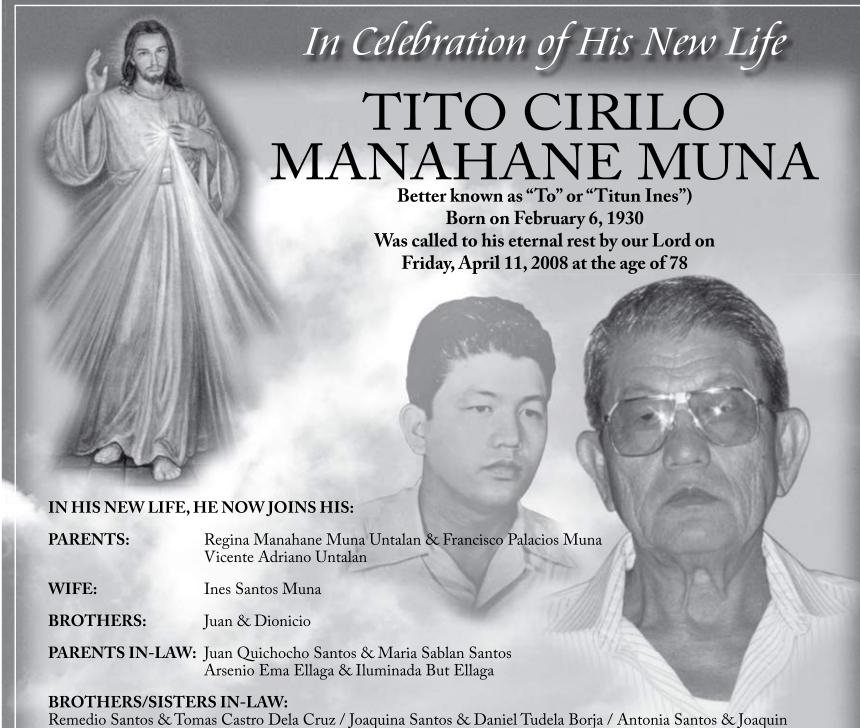
"He has the depth, the reflectiveness, and the resilience to be our next president," the letter said. "He speaks to the America I've envisioned in my music for the past 35 years, a generous nation with a citizenry willing to tackle nuanced and complex problems, a country that's interested in its collective destiny and in the potential of its gathered spirit. A place where '...nobody crowds you, and nobody goes it alone."

The bard of New Jersey is known for his lyrics about the struggles of working-class Americans, particularly in the economically ravaged factory towns of the Northeast.

Springsteen and his E Street band were part of the Vote for Change tour, a coalition of musicians opposed to the re-election of President Bush in 2004. He wrote the anti-war ballad "Devils and Dust" about Iraq.

Springsteen did not directly mention Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Obama's rival for the Democratic nomination, in his letter, but appeared to take issue with her recent criticisms of comments made by Obama about working-class voters in small towns in Pennsylvania and controversial statements by his pastor.

"Critics have tried to diminish Senator Obama through the exaggeration of certain of his comments and relationships," Springsteen wrote. "While these matters are worthy of some discussion, they have been ripped out of the context and fabric of the man's life and vision ... often in order to distract us from discussing the real issues: war and peace, the fight for economic and racial justice, reaffirming our Constitution, and the protection and enhancement of our environment."



Pangelinan Tenorio / Barbara Munoz & Jose Sablan Santos / David Scherer / Vicente Santos Sablan

SON IN-LAW: David Enrico San Nicolas Del Rosario

### HIS MEMORY WILL LIVE ON IN THE HEARTS OF HIS:

Wife: Erlinda Ellaga Muna

Sons/Daughters, In-laws & Families:

Alicia M. & Edgardo Trajano Oliva (Jesse, Jr. & Tito Vincent Bascon) Francisco & Lisa Muna (Dorothy, Mark, Melissa, & Franklin) Antonio Jesus & Marie Tenorio Muna (Regina Marie & Antonio Jesus, Jr.) Rita M. Del Rosario (David Lionel, Zenas David, Odin David, & Tito David) Patricia M. & Juan Deleon Guerrero Aldan (Christine Merced, Juan Francisco, Ignacio Tito) Raymond Lorenzo & Cecilia Borja Muna (Renae Ines & Raeana Patricia)

Sister: Maria Muna Sablan

Brothers & Sisters In-Law: Lourdes Santos Waki / Jesus Sablan Santos / Justina Santos Scherer / Erna Reyes & Manuel But Ellaga / Estrella But Ellaga / Maria Pia But Ellaga & Sixto Sulapas

Family Friends: Edith Cahayagan / Au Arnaldo / Rowena David / Josie Landa

He will also be missed by numerous nieces and nephews, relatives and friends in the CNMI, Guam, U.S.A. and the Philippines.

Holy Rosary and Daily Mass are being offered nightly at 5:30 pm at San Vicente Church.

On the final day, Saturday, April 19, 2008, his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home in San Jose to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 a.m. followed by responso & Holy Rosary. Viewing will be from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Mass of the Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m., followed by burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetary.

> Your thoughts, prayers, kind words and assistance are greatly appreciated from the Family.

Un Dankulo na Si Yu'os Ma'ase ginen I familia!

# 'X-Files' movie title is out there: 'I Want to Believe'



In this image released by 20th Century Fox, David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully in the X-Files sequel, "The X-Files: I want to Believe".



LOS ANGELES (AP)—The truth is finally out there about the new "X-Files" movie title.

The second big-screen spinoff of the paranormal TV adventure will be called "The X-Files: I Want to Believe," Chris Carter, the series' creator and the movie's director and co-writer, told The Associated Press.

Distributor 20th Century Fox signed off on the title Wednesday.

The title is a familiar phrase for fans of the series that starred David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson as FBI agents chasing after aliens and supernatural happenings. "I Want to Believe" was the slogan on a poster Duchovny's UFO-obsessed agent Fox Mulder had hanging in the cluttered basement office where he and Anderson's Dana Scully worked.

"It's a natural title," Carter said in a telephone interview Tuesday during a break from editing the film. "It's a story that involves the difficulties in mediating faith and science. 'I Want to Believe.' It really does suggest Mulder's struggle with his faith."

"I Want to Believe" comes 10

years after the finale of the series, whose opening credits for much of its nine-year run featured the catch-phrase "the truth is out there."

Due in theaters July 25, the movie will not deal with aliens or the intricate mythology about interaction between humans and extraterrestrials that the show built up over the years, Carter said.

Instead, it casts Mulder and Scully into a stand-alone, earthbound story aimed at both serious "X-Files" fans and newcomers, he said.

"It has struck me over the last several years talking to collegeage kids that a lot of them really don't know the show or haven't seen it," Carter said. "If you're 20 years old now, the show started when you were 4. It was probably too scary for you or your parents wouldn't let you watch it. So there's a whole new audience that might have liked the show. This was made to, I would call it, satisfy everyone."

Hardcore fans need not worry that the movie will be going

years after the first film and six back to square one, though, Carter said. The movie will be true to the spirit of the show and everything Mulder and Scully went through, he said.

"The reason we're even making the movie is for the rabid fans, so we don't want to insult them by having to take them back through the concept again," Carter said.

Carter said he settled on "I Want to Believe" from the time he and co-writer Frank Spotnitz started on the screenplay. It took so long to go public with it because studio executives wanted to make sure it was a marketable title, he said.

The filmmakers have kept the story tightly under wraps to prevent plot spoilers from leaking on the Internet, a phenomenon that barely existed when the first movie came out in 1998.

"We went to almost comical lengths to keep the story a secret," Carter said. "That included allowing only the key crew members to read the script, and they had to read it in a room that had video cameras trained on them. It was a new experience."

# Will Ferrell's FunnyOrDie.com celebrates 1-year anniversary

NEW YORK (AP)—Funny-OrDie.com, the Web site started by Will Ferrell and Adam McKay, is 1 year old. Its biggest star, Pearl, is 3.

The comedy site is celebrating its anniversary with a video posted Wednesday of its stars wishing Funny or Die a happy birthday. Among the many making cameos: Pearl, McKay's toddler daughter who became a star in her own right in the site's first video: "The Landlord," with more than 55 million views.

In just a year, Funny or Die has expanded to become a repository of professional content created by many top comedians, including Judd Apatow, Jack McBrayer ("30 Rock") and the comedy troupe Human Giant. Their videos are mixed with (the less popular) viewer-submitted videos, which can remain on the site if they are rated highly enough.

Pearl isn't coming out of "baby retirement," as was announced at the end of her last video, "Good Cop, Baby Cop." McKay says he'd prefer to keep her out of the spotlight, but figured a little birthday wish was harmless enough.

"It's sort of like when a professional boxer fights a professional wrestler," McKay tells The Associated Press. "It's not really a sanctioned bout."

McKay, the director of "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy" and "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," never expected the site-which he founded with Ferrell and partner Mark Kvamme, a venture capitalist at Sequoia Capital—to take off like it has.

"I always thought we'd be basketball pickup game. getting a couple hundred thousand hits a month and it'd be a fun thing to screw around with," McKay says.

Instead, Funny or Die has swelled to include several other sites in the "Or Die" network including a skateboarding site with Tony Hawk, ShredOrDie. com, and BlueCollarOrDie. com, a more Southern-style comedy site with Jeff Foxworthy and Larry the Cable Guy.

More offshoots are planned, including the soon-to-be-announced EatDrinkOrDie.com



Ferrell

with celebrity chefs.

Next week, a redesigned Funny or Die will debut with more blogs and a social networking component.

"The big thing that separates us is the original content," says Mc-Kay. "I don't think anyone else has the amount of pieces written specifically for the site, with the amount of actors we have."

McKay says making the videos is "so pain-free": They'll dispatch a film crew within hours if someone they know has a good idea for a video, and they will shoot videos quickly and casually before a weekly

"The Green Team," which starred Ferrell, McKay and John C. Reilly, was shot on the set of their upcoming film "Step Brothers" in "negative time it was so fast," McKay says.

Though FunnyOrDie.com hasn't again found lightning in a bottle like it did with "The Landlord," it has been a dependable source of funny, original content. Often, the videos are deployed as promotional tools for movies.

This week, the Apatow-produced "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" is loosely advertised with a video by one of its stars, Kristen Bell, pleading for people to contribute to the "McLovin Fund" to help "Superbad" actor Christopher Mintz-Plasse avoid being typecast.

Chief executive officer Dick Glover would like to see the business of Funny or Die start grossing a few million dollars this year, after making what Kvamme has said was a few hundred thousand dollars last year. Glover hopes Funny or Die, which averages 3.2 million unique visitors a month, will double its size this year.

"There are now 30,000 videos on it; it started with a handful," says Glover. "At the launch, it was looked at-for good reason-as Will Ferrell's Web site. Now, it's looked at as its own brand."

McKay says he's considering creating a Funny or Die Productions to make more elaborate webisodes-even movies. So, what started as a way to circumvent the studios and interact directly with fans may itself become a studio.

In this Thursday,

March 6,

2008 file

contestant

Kristy Lee

Cook at-

tends the

American

Idol an-

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12 Party

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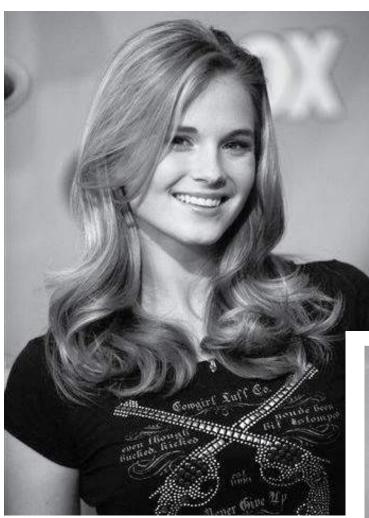
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# 'American Idol' cuts another finalist



**NEWYORK**(AP)—The praise of Mariah Carey couldn't rescue Kristy Lee Cook from elimination on "American Idol." The 24-year-old resident country singer from Selma, Ore., was the latest casualty as the Fox sing-off narrowed the competition to six finalists.

Though guest mentor Carey said Cook's rendition of "Forever" gave her chills, Simon Cowell was not so impressed.

Brooke White and Syesha Mercado joined Cook with album "EMC2."

the lowest number of votes on Wednesday's results show. When asked to predict the loser, Cowell said: "Maybe Kristy you know, your time's up this time, sweetheart."

Cook cried but took the eviction in stride. She directed her reprisal of "Forever" to Cowell, who grinned awkwardly.

The telecast also featured performances by "Idol" also-ran Elliott Yamin and Carey, who sang "Bye Bye" from her new

# Restraining order extended against Spears' friend Lutfi

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A temporary restraining order against Britney Spears' friend Sam Lutfi was extended Wednesday after an attorney told a judge all parties had agreed on the matter.

Lutfi was not at the hearing, during which an attorney for Spears' father gave Superior Court Judge Aviva K. Bobb a document with Lutfi's signature.

Attorney Vivian Thoreen said James Spears, Lutfi and Andrew Wallet, an attorney who is coconservator of Britney Spears' estate, agreed to continue the hearing on the restraining order to July 31.

The restraining order was requested by Britney Spears' mother, Lynne, when the singer was hospitalized on a psychiatric



hold. The order, which was to expire Wednesday, directs Lutfi to stay at least 250 yards away from the pop star and her homes.

Earlier, Superior Court Commissioner Reva Goetz transferred the matter to Bobb's court because Lutfi objected to having a commissioner hear it instead of a judge. Bobb is the supervisory judge for probate matters. Goetz will continue to handle the conservatorship of Britney Spears and her estate.

In a statement, Lutfi spokesman Michael Sands said: "Sam and the family are communicating and cooperating trying to do what's best for Britney."

# NY judge urges settlement in suit over Harry Potter guide

NEW YORK (AP)-J.K. Rowl- ner Bros., which holds intellectual ing and a publisher who wants to release an unauthorized lexicon to her Harry Potter novels should try to settle the copyright dispute out of court, a judge said Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Robert Patterson Jr. said the copyright infringement case was a legal close call, involving unresolved areas of American law, and was almost certain to end in years of appeals.

"I think this case, with imagination, could be settled," Patterson said on the third day of the trial in Manhattan federal court.

The judge made a similar suggestion at the close of Tuesday's court session. The lawyers for both sides have settled some sections of the suit, but appear to be resolved to continue the litigation.

Lawyers for Rowling and War-

property rights to the Potter books and films, rested their case Wednesday morning, saying they believed they had proven that "The Harry Potter Lexicon" took too much copyrighted material from Rowling's work.

The lead attorney for the plaintiffs, Dale Margaret Cendali, said she still planned to call Rowling to the stand for a second time later in the trial to rebut testimony offered by the defendant, RDR Books.

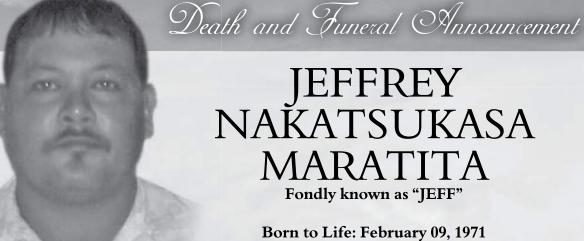
So far, the trial has featured two days of emotional testimony, first by Rowling, then by the fan who wrote the unauthorized guide, former middle school librarian Steven

The court has also heard from dueling experts from the publishing industry.

Suzanne Murphy, a vice president at Scholastic, which published the Harry Potter novels in the U.S., testified for the plaintiffs that the lexicon could find plenty of buyers, even though it is a somewhat "poor" book largely put together by fans.

The lexicon is mostly a print version of parts of an expansive Web site created by the 50-year-old Vander Ark. Assembled in just a month, it's organized like an encyclopedia and includes lists of characters, creatures, places and spells from the novels.

Vander Ark's publisher, RDR Books, solicited testimony from publishing consultant Bruce Harris, who said the book was likely to sell only a few thousand copies to dedicated Potter fans and presented no threat to Rowling's sales.



Called to Eternal Life: April 15, 2008 Of Afetna, San Antonio Village, Saipan

Was called to eternal home by our Lord at the age of 37.

Predeceased by:

Magdalena Taisakan Nakatsukasa Maratita Mother: Maternal grandparents: Johannes Koyama & Consuelo Taisacan Nakatsukasa Paternal grandparents: Robert Matantaotao & Brigida Camacho Maratita

Sister:

Brothers: Herman T. Nakatsukasa, Juan N. Maratita & Johannes N. Maratita

Brother-in-law: Donald de la Rosa

Survived by his loving:

Father: **Thomas Camacho Maratita** Wife: Juliana Duenas de la Rosa

Children: David Peter, Jerry Thomas, Tzarina Mae, Thaddeus Paul & Jiana Isa

Reared parents: Vicente D. & Rosalina M. Magofna Parents-in-law: Antonio E. & Antonia D. de la Rosa Joaquin and †Ana Cabrera, Godparents:

Francisco M. Sablan

Brothers/Sisters/Spouses & Children

Francisco S. Basa Brigida N. Maratita Rufino N./Tina N. Maratita Robert N. Maratita Eusebio N./Virginia Maratita Rosalina M./Jose M. Taga Consuelo M./Eddie Reyes

Diego N. Maratita Edwina N. Maratita Kuleta M./Joe Vince Taitano Sister/Brother-in-law/Spouses & Children Frances DLR. & Martin Pangelinan

> Rudy & Nora de la Rosa Joseph & Mary de la Rosa William & Elinor de la Rosa Vivian DLR. & Mariano Palacios Robert de la Rosa

Nora DLR. & Mike Santos

Additionally survived by numerous nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Holy Rosary is being prayed at 5:15 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m. in San Antonio Church. On Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 7:00 a.m. his remains will be escorted from the Borja's Funeral Home to San Antonio Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Service will follow at the Tanapag Cemetary.

Your presence and prayers is greatly appreciated.

Thank you yan si yu'us ma'ase.

From: Thomas Camacho Maratita Juliana D. de la Rosa, Children and Family **36** FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 & STYLE LIFE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Cynthia Nixon goes public with breast cancer battle

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Cynthia Nixon face a diagnosis each year." has joined forces with the breast cancer organization Susan G. Komen for the Cure and is going public with her own battle with breast cancer.

Nixon, who is reprising her role as Miranda in HBO's "Sex and the City" in an upcoming movie, had a lumpectomy two years ago and then underwent six and a half weeks of radiation. She also helped her mother battle breast cancer.

"As the daughter of a breast cancer survivor, knowing my personal risk made me more aware and more empowered when I faced my own diagnosis," the 42-year-old actress said in a statement. "I want to help Susan G. Komen for the Cure educate the 1.1 million women around the globe who

The Dallas-based Komen foundation is known for its Race for the Cure events.

Nixon will serve as an ambassador for the organization and will share her cancer experiences in a series of Web videos.

She told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday that she didn't want to make her cancer treatment public while she was going through it. "I didn't want paparazzi at the hospital," she said.

In this March 31, 2008 file photo, actress Cynthia Nixon attends a Cinema Society screening of "Smart People" at Landmark Sunshine Theater in New York.



## Martha Stewart's dog Paw Paw dies of renal failure



This undated photo provided by Martha Stewart shows Stewart's dog Paw Paw at her home in Bedford, N.Y.

NEW YORK (AP)—Martha Stewart's dog Paw Paw, who was a familiar face on her television show and in her magazine, has died of renal failure.

The 60-pound chow, whose full name was Kublai Khan Paw Paw Chow Chow Chow, was almost 13. Stewart had owned him since he was born, and had named him Paw Paw for his large paws, a spokeswoman said.

"Paw Paw was a spectacular chow and an even more spectacular dog," Stewart wrote in a blog post on his death Saturday. "He was always my loyal companion, displaying the most agreeable temperament."

Stewart wrote that Paw Paw was a willing model for the camera, appearing in television commercials and national print ads. She said in his final days, he stopped eating and drifted off into deep sleeps.

She has two other dogs, Sharkey and Francesca, along with several other animals, including cats, horses and donkeys, at her home in Bedford,

### Police seek child endangerment charge in Sambora case

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Police are asking the district attorney to file a misdemeanor child endangerment charge against Richie Sambora, who had two children in his car when he was arrested for investigation of drunken driving last month.

Authorities haven't released the names of a woman and two girls who were passengers in Sambora's car when the Bon Jovi guitarist was stopped March 25.

Laguna Beach police Sgt. Jason Kravetz said Sambora was arrested without incident after failing a field sobriety test. He is scheduled to be arraigned May 7.

Police are recommending that driving under the influence and misdemeanor child endangerment charges be filed against the 48-year-old musician. The Orange County district attorney's office will make the final

Sambora's publicist didn't immediately return a call for comment.

"We have received the case and are reviewing it to determine which charges are appropriate," district attorney spokeswoman Farrah Emami said Wednesday.

She said the office has until Sambora's court appearance date to make a decision.

## Cindy McCain will take a seat at 'The View' table

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Cindy McCain is joining the ladies on "The View"—at least for a day.

Republican candidate John McCain's wife will be a co-host on the ABC daytime chat show next Monday. She'll give conservative host Elisabeth Hasselbeck a rare ally in the show's political conversations.

McCain's husband has been on "The View" four times, most recently last week.

There's no word on whether



as Cindy McCain's. In this April 3, 2008 file photo, Cindy McCain, wife of Republican presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is shown

in Jacksonville, Fla.

she'll be bringing any recipes to

share. Her husband's campaign

had a mild embarrassment this

week when an intern posted rec-

ipes on its Web site lifted from

the Food Network and Rachel

Ray and falsely passed them off

### Nickelodeon show goes from opera, classical to Beatles

NEW YORK (AP)-Nickelodeon's "The Wonder Pets!" introduced preschoolers to classical music and opera during its first season. Now it's moving on to the Beatles.

It says something about the Beatles' continuing appeal that TV producers turned to a band that broke up nearly 40 years ago as the best way to introduce children under age 5 to rock 'n' roll.

"They were such brilliant songwriters that just cross over every age group," said series creator Josh Selig.

The "Save the Beetles!" episode premieres April 21 (7 p.m. EDT). The Wonder Pets travel to Liverpool to rescue four beetles whose yellow submarine is trapped in kelp. Following the rescue, the Beetles perform a concert.

The series features a guinea pig, duckling and turtle who travel the world to save baby animals in distress. Last year the music was recorded by a full orchestra with much of the dialogue sung in operetta style.

Lenie Colacino, a star of

Broadway's late-'70s musical "Beatlemania," is the voice of Wingo, Jack and Pete (or Ringo, John and Paul) in the episode. He said he would have been happy to do George's "beetle," too, but producers wanted another voice.

He's continually impressed with how the Beatles' music moves on from generation to generation, and he likes how the story was told on "The Wonder Pets!"

"It wasn't smarmy," Colacino said. "It didn't talk down to children."



This police booking photo released by Laguna Beach, Calif., Police Department on Wednesday, March 26, 2008, shows Bon Jovi lead guitarist Richie Sambora after being arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol.

# Sister burdened with debt has only herself to blame

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN** 

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My sister, "Ellie," and her husband, "Bill," have three lovely little girls. Both have good jobs and live in a pleasant neighborhood. However, neither one ever learned any life skills. Both worked and lived rent-free with their parents until they met and married in their late 20s. Consequently, they are up to their necks in credit card debt because of their need for instant gratification.



For the past year Ellie has called me almost daily, crying, asking for money "for the sake of the children." I have given them what we can spare, but I have three sons in college, and my husband may be facing a medical retirement, which would leave me the sole wage-earner.

I have told Ellie repeatedly that she and Bill must learn to budget and pay their bills, and advised them to seek professional debt and marriage counseling, neither of which they have done.

Several months ago, Ellie called to ask if the family could move in with us until they got on their feet. My husband refused, telling her that without counseling their habits were not going to change, and we could not afford to support them short of a true emergency.

Ellie was furious. She joined a "swingers" club and began a series of love affairs. Ellie says her affairs are "the only comfort" she has now that I have failed to "rescue" her in her "hour of need."

I'm upset that I have made the girls' situation worse by refusing to provide for their parents. However, my husband is adamant that two working people should learn to manage their own lives. Am I injuring my nieces by refusing to rescue their parents?

—NON-ENABLER, OAK RIDGE, TENN.

DEAR NON-ENABLER: Your sister has made it your responsibility because she joined a swingers club, and you're accepting it? Wake up! You haven't made their situation worse, SHE has. Ellie is not only irresponsible, but also immature. Do not be bamboozled.

You are carrying a heavy enough load as it is. If you step in and try to rescue Ellie, you'll wind up carrying her until the stress makes you sick. The only person who can get her out of the mess she has created is herself.

DEAR ABBY: Early in our marriage—the second for both of us—my husband suggested having my portrait painted in the nude. We found an artist we were comfortable with, and the painting turned out so beautiful, we decided to have my husband pose nude, too.

We keep these paintings in our bedroom and have never allowed anyone else to see them. We plan to cherish them for many years, but now realize we will need to make arrangements for their safekeeping after we're gone. They are tastefully positioned, beautifully framed and quite large. We do not want our children left with the task of finding a home for our "artwork."

How do we go about finding a gallery that will display them?

PICTURE-PERFECT IN PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR PICTURE-PERFECT: Start calling the museums** and art galleries in your area. Your success may depend upon the level of recognition the artist who painted your portraits has achieved. If that doesn't work, then contact the clothing-optional resorts in your area and ask if they would like to hang them in their clubhouse.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 **37** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Pastimes**

### Calvin and Hobbes



I PREFER TO LET THE WISDOM OF MY WORDS AND DEEDS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES



**ME, IT ZEE** DAD BURIED IN JUBILANT THRONGS FILL STREETS! STUNNED FATHER INCONSOLABLE -DEMANDS RECOUNT

By Bill Waterson

### **Garfield**®







Adam@home

"Letters"

27 Upper

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**29** One of

Santa's

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34 Without

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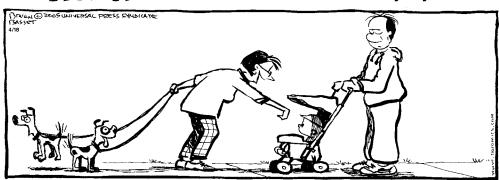
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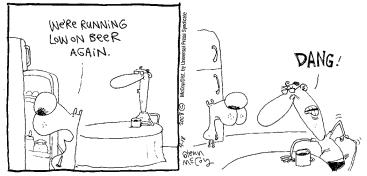
By Bryan Basset



By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis







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Yesterday's answer 4-18

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Melissa Joan Hart, 32; Maria Bello, 41; Conan O'Brien, 45; James Woods, 61

Happy Birthday: You can manipulate any situation if you do everything by the book. You have the innate ability to see things as they are and to move forward with great confidence. Personal issues may require precautionary measures in order to avoid some of the land mines set by troublemakers. Your numbers are 2, 6, 18, 20, 41, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Arguments, innuendoes and emotional flare-ups will occupy your time if you aren't discreet. Someone you like will show greater interest in you. Be careful not to move too quickly. •••

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may have a good idea but someone is likely to stand in your way or slow you down. Trying to win favors will be a waste of time but, if you are quiet about your plans and move swiftly in a direction that suits your needs, you will make headway.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Get a move on it and you will have everyone talking about your efficient way of doing things. It won't take long to get the help you need to finish what you've started. Go full tilt ahead with confidence. OOOOO

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't trust someone because he or she is being nice. Be careful to whom you divulge your emotional secrets or you may end up embarrassed. A love interest may disappoint you if you are too eager to do things for him or her. ••

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Travel or at least look into the prospects of a vacation with someone you love to spend time with. You will enhance your current relationship if you take time out to make plans for two. A good idea

can be taken to a new level. •••• VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will excel where work and money are concerned. You can develop your own position by offering a service that is in demand. There is money to be made if you use your ingenuity to fill a need in your community.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotions will be running wild and can lead to mistakes if you aren't careful. Don't overreact to what others do. Give the ones you love the space they need to excel. Focus on your own creative projects.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The giveand-take aspect of whatever relationship you are trying to nurture will pay off. A trip will enlighten you about a project you want to pursue. Change will turn out to be in your favor, so don't fight it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Love is in the stars and the chance to make future plans for two looks good. Taking off without proper planning will lead to disaster. Make sure you map out your route or prepare to face delays.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Too much will be just as damaging as too little. Balance will be required if you wish to make headway. A love relationship or

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't worry so much about what'completely honest. 🛇 around you. You will get your way in

and what you will give in return. Love will be enhanced if you are receptive, affectionate and understanding. OOOOO PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The more unpredictable you are, the more trouble you will face emotionally. At least give the impression that you know what you want and

friendship may be on the line if you haven't been

the end if you are precise about what you want

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast, powerful and intellectual. You are stubborn and cannot be pushed by anyone or anything if you disagree. You are set in your ways.

that you have a plan. Take action, even if you

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

### Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	8	9	2	3	5	4	6	7	
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1	8	9	2	3	5	4	6	7
7	3	5	6	9	4	2	1	8
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3	4	6	7	1	9	5	8	2
2	9	7	8	5	6	1	3	4
Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/17								

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### By DAVID WONDERWORD

aren't ready to do so. 👀

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD, The leftover letters spell

PRUNING APPLE TREES GHMHSLETYVSCROP TNALPHNPHIBUYSS GNIREWOLFGMTSP DONGVNZRSOISU SLTMAEUBTRLRPTE E Y E C D I S S U E S E P (I) S ATNITRPTBDNLOUT SIAEYIASIRSGRAT OLNVNMCHENRNTGI NACSHAITCEGANAM AUEHFTNRNRRUEEE LQWFOIGETBOUNDS SBOJWPWNRYWOIAN DLOCPATTERNWTHE D S D C L I P R E L L A M S D

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com Aging, Angle, Bounds, Buds, Canopy, Chop, Clip, Cold, Crop, Cuts, Dense, Flowering, Fruit, Grown, Hand, Harvesting, Jobs, Length, Limbs, Maintenance, Manage, Maturity, Orchard, Pattern, Plant, Quality, Renewal, Roots, Scaffold, Seasonal, Shade, Shorten, Sizes, Smaller, Snips, Soil, Spurs, Stem, Stub, Support, Time, Tips, Tops, Tree, Trim, Uprght, Vigor, Wide, Winter, Wood, Yield, Young, Zone

Yesterday's Answer: Schedules

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E: The tonce of "Wonderword for kind" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to cit from Wonderword for a limited time, the book is on also in paid Se and U.S. Linds only, synable to luverses facile. Include S3 postage for the first book order, \$1 ox8h for each application book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main S1, as City, Mo. 64111 ox8l forliffeet, 1900 225 6794, as 1688. Sorry, no notine orders for this special offer.

### **CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES**

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS) **COMBO** (PRINT AND ONLINE) \$25

• 3-Liner • 5-Liner \$35 • 3-Liner with picture \$45 · 5-Liner with picture \$55

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All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position \$13.00 \$5.00 2nd position **Succeeding positions** \$2.00

 $These \, rates \, apply \, to \, all \, job \, vacancy \, announcements \, on \, Saipan \, that \,$ include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

### **Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publica-

### **Job Vacancy Announcements**

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

### CANCELLATION

### **Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### **Job Vacancy Announcements**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### **CHECK YOUR ADS**

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

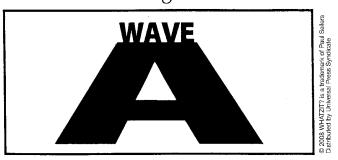
All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan *Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### **2 Storey House 4 Rent,** 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, fenced yard.

Very quite & secluded area in Papago, for \$1,200 a month. 256-2502 or 483-2508.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

**NEW** Rattan Furniture Call 789-1625

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Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

House for rent or long term lease. Located in San Roque, with 2bedroom, 1bathroom, kitchen, livingroom & carport. Call 322-2488

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- Experience a necessity
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- Salary & Benefits dependent on skill level. Contact Bing @ Toothworks Dental Clinic: 234-3810/3814



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# Pacers beat Knicks in possible Thomas swan song



**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—The Indiana Pacers beat New York 132-123 in the NBA on Wednesday, sending the Knicks to a franchise record-tying

59th loss in what might have been Isiah Thomas' last game as coach.

New Knicks president Donnie Walsh hasn't promised Thomas he'll keep his job, and Thomas gave Walsh another reason to fire him. The Knicks allowed their highest point total of the season on the last day of the regular season.

Mike Dunleavy tied a career high with 36 points as Indiana reached a season-high point total.

### **Heat 113, Hawks 99**

At Miami, Jason Williams scored 17 points, Mark Blount and Daequan Cook each added 16 and Miami ended a disappointing season that may be the last with Pat Riley as coach.

Riley will meet with Heat owner Micky Arison in the coming days and come to a decision on his future. Miami finished 15-67, matching the 1988-89 expansion team for the worst record in franchise history.

Josh Smith scored 20 points for Atlanta, which is headed to Boston for its first playoff appearance since 1999.

### Celtics 105, Nets 94

At Boston, second-stringer Leon Powe scored a career-high 27 points, adding 11 rebounds for his sixth career double-double, and the Boston bench helped beat New Jersey.

Boston finished 66-16 for the best record in the NBA.

Richard Jefferson scored 24 points for New Jersey, which ended up 34-48, missing the playoffs for the first time since 2001.



Indiana Pacers forward Mike Dunleavy, right, is fouled by New York Knicks forward David Lee as he goes up for a shot during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Wednesday, April 16, 2008.

### **Mavericks 111, Hornets 98**

At Dallas, Jason Kidd had the 100th triple-double of his career and sparked a 30-8 stretch, sending Dallas into a first-round playoff showdown with New Orleans.

Kidd had 27 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his first triple-double since rejoining the Mavericks. He already was No. 3 on the career list of triple-doubles, behind Oscar Robertson and Magic Johnson.

### Pistons 84, **Cavaliers 74**

At Cleveland, Detroit's reserves outplayed Cleveland's bench.

Rookie Aaron Afflalo scored

15 points for the Pistons, who will meet Philadelphia in the first round starting on Sunday.

Wally Szczerbiak scored 18 points to pace the Cavaliers, who face an opening-round matchup against Washington.

### Magic 103, Wizards 83

At Orlando, Florida, J.J. Redick scored a career-high 18 points and Marcin Gortat had a careerhigh 12 points and 11 rebounds in Orlando's win.

Andray Blatche led Washington with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

The Magic, the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference, will host Toronto in the first round of the playoffs. No. 5 seed Washington will play at Cleveland.

### Bobcats 115, 76ers 109

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Jason Richardson scored 29 points and Charlotte recovered from blowing a big lead to send Philadelphia to the playoffs on a four-game losing streak.

Willie Green scored 27 points for Philadelphia, which will limp into its first playoff appearance in three seasons against Detroit.

### Rockets 93, Clippers 75

At Houston, Luis Scola had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Houston locked up the No. 5 seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

The Rockets improved to 22-2 drunken driving charge, and in their last 24 home games.

Corey Maggette scored 22 points and Elton Brand added 18 points and 12 rebounds for Los Angeles, which has lost 17 of the last 20 meetings to Houston.

### **Bulls 107, Raptors 97**

At Chicago, Tyrus Thomas scored a season-high 26, Aaron Gray had career-highs of 19 points and 22 rebounds, and Chicago watched its woeful season come to a merciful end.

Toronto rested many of its starters as it had the third seed in the Eastern Conference and a first-round playoff matchup with Orlando locked up.

### **Timberwolves 110,** Bucks 101, OT

At Minneapolis, Randy Foye scored 10 of his career-high 32 points in overtime to help Minnesota finish a forgettable regular season on a winning note.

In what might have been the end of Larry Krystkowiak's only full season as coach, Milwaukee blew a 16-point third-quarter lead and lost its eighth straight match.

### **Spurs 109, Jazz 80**

At San Antonio, Tony Parker had 24 points and 12 assists for San Antonio, which wrapped up the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference and will play Phoenix in the first round.

Tim Duncan added 14 points and 11 rebounds, and four other Spurs scored in double digits.

C.J. Miles had 12 points for the Jazz, who will take on Houston to open the playoffs. Mehmet Okur scored 11 and Carlos Boozer had 10 rebounds.

### Nuggets 120, **Grizzlies 111**

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 17 points and grabbed six rebounds in his first game since getting arrested on a pansion 1967-68 season.

Denver reached 50 wins for the first time in 20 years but still will have to play the top-seeded Lakers in the playoffs.

Allen Iverson led Denver with 21 points. Kenyon Martin logged the most minutes among the starters, collecting 11 points and 10 rebounds in 24 minutes.

Kyle Lowry led the Grizzlies' starters with 22 points, and Hakim Warrick added 19. Reserve Andre Brown also scored 19.

### **Suns 100, Trail Blazers 91**

At Phoenix, little-used Sean Marks had 16 points and 13 rebounds and Phoenix goes into the playoffs off a win, where it'll play third-seeded San Antonio.

The Spurs led Utah by 26 at halftime, and it wasn't long before Mike D'Antoni sent in reserves D.J. Strawberry, followed by Marks, Alando Tucker and Eric Piatkowski.

Steve Nash. Amare Stoudemire and Shaquille O'Neal didn't play after halftime. Stoudemire finished with 12 points in 18 minutes, snapping his streak of consecutive 20-point games at 18, the third-longest in franchise history.

### SuperSonics 126. Warriors 121

At Oakland, California, Kevin Durant set career highs with 42 points and 13 rebounds in his first professional double-double, and Jeff Green added 27 points for the Seattle.

It could have been their final game as a Seattle team. The NBA Board of Governors is set to vote later this week to approve the Sonics' move to Oklahoma City.

Even by winning their final two games, the Sonics (20-62) posted the worst record in their history, winning three fewer games than they did in their ex-

# Heat coach Riley still not tipping hand about future

**MIAMI** (AP)—Pat Riley has been hearing questions about his coaching future for weeks. He still isn't ready to answer. The Miami Heat coach and president, who announced last summer he would remain on the sideline through the end of the 2009-2010 season, refused to say Wednesday if that plan has changed.

Yet he's aware Wednesday night's finale against Atlanta—a 113-99 Heat victory—may have been the 1,904th and final regular-season game of his Hall of Fame coaching career. After that, a round of exit interviews with players and staff await Thursday, followed by a meeting with Heat owner Micky Arison, which will presumably take place early next week.

From there, the question— "Will he stay or go?"—will likely be answered.

"Borne out of that conversation, I'll make a decision," Riley said. "The conversation with him is going to be important for

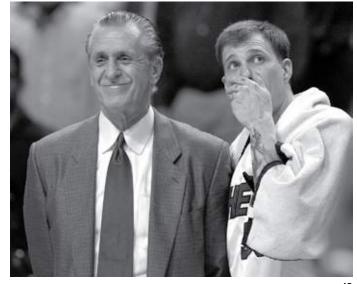
a lot of reasons. I really want to do what's in the best interest of the Heat."

The Heat, who spent much of the season without Dwyane Wade, Alonzo Mourning, Udonis Haslem and Dorell Wright because of injuries, finished the season 15-67, matching the expansion 1988-89 club for the worst mark in franchise history.

Riley dismissed the notion that he wouldn't want his career to end on such a down note, saying "there's no perfect time." And players said they weren't sure if Riley was leaning one way or another.

"When you're in the midst of this kind of season, you've got to give it thought," Riley said. "I've been at this 25 years. I know what's going on. Hard evaluation on yourself is the first thing that you have to really assess."

Until this season, Riley—a coach of five NBA championship teams—had endured only



Miami Heat coach Pat Riley, left, smiles as Jason Williams stands next to him late in the fourth quarter of the Heat's NBA basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks in Miami on Wednesday, April 16, 2008.

two other sub-.500 seasons. He retired after the second one, making the stunning decision to step aside just days before the start of 2003-04 season and turning the team over to longtime top assistant Stan Van Gundy.

Riley then took over again when Van Gundy, just as shockingly, stepped down 21 games into the 2005-06 season. Riley led that Heat team to that year's NBA championship, but Miami has gone 58-109 in regular-season

and playoff games in the two seasons since winning that title.

And those two seasons have, at times, been draining.

"Coach Riley, he's a competitor. No matter what, he wants to win," guard Chris Quinn said Wednesday. "Whether it's the 82nd game of a 14-win, 15-win season or in the playoffs, he wants to win. Just like anybody else, when you cross through those lines, your competitive (nature) takes over and vou want to win the game."

Riley missed 22 games last season to have surgeries on his hip and knee, then missed four games this season to scout players who may be available to the Heat in this year's NBA draft. Miami has the best chance of obtaining the No. 1 pick in this year's draft, and by having the league's worst record is assured of getting a top-four selection.

"There's a lot of great possibilities," Riley said. "We're not locked in. We're not stuck. We

have options."

It's not a coincidence that Riley's original plan to coach three more seasons was in line with the number of years that remained on Shaquille O'Neal's contract entering the 2007-08 campaign. But the O'Neal era in Miami ended somewhat acrimoniously in early February, when the Heat sent him to the Phoenix Suns in exchange for Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks.

Riley, who also won NBA titles as an assistant coach and a player, has a 1,210-694 regular-season record. Include his 171 playoff victories, Riley has a .632 winning percentage in his coaching career, a stat that helped him be voted earlier this month into the 2008 induction class for the Basketball Hall of Fame

"The positive thing out of this is what lies ahead," Riley said. "I know the players are chomping at the bit also to put this behind us."

# A-Rod hits 522nd homer, passing Williams and McCovey as Yankees outlast Red Sox



(AP)—Alex Rodriguez hit his 522nd home run

to pass Ted Williams and Willie Mc-Covey for 15th place on the career list, and the New York Yankees outlasted the Boston Red Sox 15-9 Wednesday in a glacially paced game that took 4 hours, 8 minutes.

Melky Cabrera's tiebreaking groundout in a four-run fifth inning put New York ahead to stay. The 24 runs were the most in a Red Sox-Yankees game at Yankee Stadium since New York's 14-10 win on April 21, 1956, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. And the 15 runs were the most by New York against Boston in the Bronx since winning 17-9 on July 7, 1954.

New York went ahead for good 11-9 in the fifth, when Jorge Posada hit an RBI double against Julian Tavarez (0-1) and scored the tying run on Robinson Cano's single.

The Yankees, who have won three straight for the first time this year, stopped Boston's winning streak at four. Bobby Abreu hit a two-run homer for New York.

LaTroy Hawkins (1-0) got the win and Brian Bruney earned his first save since 2005.

### Tigers 13, Indians 2

At Cleveland, Edgar Renteria hit a grand slam, Miguel Cabrera also homered and drove in five runs, and the resurgent Detroit roughed up struggling Cy Young pitching award winner C.C. Sabathia.

Cabrera finished with four hits, and Renteria's fifth-inning slam capped Detroit's offensive outburst against Sabathia (0-3), who has a 13.50 ERA after four outings. That's one big reason for Cleveland's slow start—the Indians (5-10) have lost three straight and eight of 11.

Sabathia, who can become a free agent after this season, gave up nine runs, eight hits and five walks over four-plus innings before leaving to boos. The Indians lost for the sixth time in seven games.

### White Sox 3, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, Jim Thome broke a prolonged power drought with a three-run homer and a double, leading Chicago past skidding Baltimore.

Jose Contreras (1-1) pitched seven innings of four-hit ball for the White Sox, who have won nine of 12. He struck out six, walked none and lowered his ERA from 6.17 to 4.34.

Scott Linebrink worked the eighth and Bobby Jenks got three straight outs for his sixth save.

Thome was forced to sit Tuesday



New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez crosses the plate after hitting a solo home run against the Boston Red Sox during the first inning in a baseball game Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

after being suspended for inappropriate actions during an April 11 game against Detroit. He returned to lineup against the Orioles with a .156 batting average and a homerless drought that had reached 43 at-bats.

In his first plate appearance, Thome followed a leadoff single by Nick Swisher and a walk to Orlando Cabrera with a shot to center off Adam Loewen (0-1).

### Twins 6, Rays 5

At Minneapolis, Mike Lamb hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning that Carl Crawford caught in foul territory, and Minnesota beat Tampa Bay.

Juan Rincon (1-0) got two outs and Joe Nathan pitched the ninth for his fifth save, striking out Crawford to end the game.

Shawn Riggans hit a two-run shot for the Rays, who also got homers from Crawford and Eric Hinske off Livan Hernandez. Dan Wheeler (0-2) took the loss.

### Rangers 7, Blue Jays 5, 14 innings

At Toronto, Frank Catalanotto scored the go-ahead run on A.J. Burnett's wild pitch in the 14th inning and Texas beat Toronto, snapping a five-game losing streak.

With the bullpen depleted, Burnett (1-1) relieved in the 14th. The right-hander, who started in Texas on Sunday, became Toronto's ninth pitcher of the game, tying a team record.

Josh Hamilton added an RBI double in the 14th. Hamilton finished 4-for-7

and drove in two runs—for the first time in seven games, he did not score.

Catalanotto also homered and Jason Botts hit a solo homer and two-run double for the Rangers. Milton Bradley drew five walks, two of them intentional, and extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

### **Mariners 4, Athletics 2**

At Oakland, California, Felix Hernandez found success with all four of his pitches, throwing his first complete game in more than a year to lead Seattle past Oakland.

Hernandez struck out eight in an eight-hitter, retiring 16 of 18 during one stretch. He threw 115 pitches in a game that took only 2 hours, 9 minutes.

Jose Vidro hit a two-run double off Joe Blanton (1-3), Adrian Beltre doubled twice and drove in a run and Raul Ibanez had three hits, an RBI and scored twice for Seattle.

Hernandez (2-0) lowered his ERA from 1.66 to 1.52. He already held a 3-0 lead when he took the mound in the bottom of the first, then went out and showed that he can be the ace of the Mariners' staff with Erik Bedard on the disabled list.

### Royals 3, Angels 2

At Anaheim, California, Gil Meche pitched six solid innings to earn his first win of the year and Kansas City scored three early runs off Los Angeles righthander Jered Weaver

Meche (1-2) held the Angels to two runs and six hits, improving to 7-2 against them. Billy Butler and Alex Gordon had RBI singles in the first, and Joey Gathright scored on Weaver's error in the second.

The Royals extended their winning streak against the Angels to six in a row, five of those last year. Joakim Soria got his fifth save.

Soria pitched a perfect ninth with two strikeouts and has retired his last 17 batters, eight on strikeouts. Mark Teahen and Gathright each had three hits for Kansas City.

### Diamondbacks 4, Giants 1

At San Francisco, Brandon Webb and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat Barry Zito and the San Francisco Giants in a matchup featuring a pair of former pitching award winners who are headed in different directions.

Webb, who has begun a season by winning his first four starts for the first time, hit an early two-run single and made it stand up. The 2006 Cy Young winner gave up three hits over eight innings and won his sixth straight decision since last September.

Zito, the Giants' \$126 million (€79 million) left-hander who went a career-worst 11-13 last year, is still searching for consistency at 0-4. He allowed three earned runs, five hits and five walks in six innings.

### Astros 2, Phillies 1

At Philadelphia, Roy Oswalt snapped out of an early funk with seven strong innings and Michael Bourn hit a tiebreaking solo homer for Houston.

Bourn connected off Kyle Kendrick (1-2) in the fifth inning to help beat his former teammates.

Oswalt (1-3) finally looked like a three-time All-Star instead of the worst pitcher in the NL. He gave up one run and five hits to snap a three-game losing skid and beat the Phillies for the sixth straight time. Oswalt came in first or tied for first in the league in losses, runs and hits allowed.

### Marlins 6, Braves 5

At Miami, Mike Jacobs hit his sixth home run and Luis Gonzalez added a two-run pinch-hit homer to lead surprising Florida to the win.

Tim Hudson (2-1) lasted only three innings for Atlanta, which lost its third in a row and fell to 0-7 in one-run games. They're 2-7 on the road.

Mark Hendrickson (3-1) won his third start in a row for the Marlins, who are last in the NL in ERA but 9-0 when scoring at least four runs. They lead the

first homer of the season, a three-run shot in New York's four-run fifth inning, to back John Maine's solid start. Jose Reyes also connected for the

At New York, Carlos Beltran hit his

NL East despite the lowest payroll in

Mets 5, Nationals 2

the majors.

first time and Ryan Church hit his second home run to help New York hand anemic Washington its 11th loss in 12 games.

Maine (1-1) allowed two runs and five hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Matt Chico (0-3) took the loss.

### Cubs 12, Reds 3

At Chicago, Derrek Lee homered for Chicago and Carlos Zambrano pitched seven solid innings while helping himself with three hits.

The Cubs scored four runs in the first and six in the third to give Zambrano an early cushion on another blustery night at Wrigley Field.

Zambrano (2-1) allowed eight hits and two runs. Chicago, meanwhile, hit Josh Fogg (1-2) hard and sent Cincinnati and ex-Cubs manager Dusty Baker to their fifth straight loss.

### **Cardinals 5, Brewers 4**

At St. Louis, Adam Wainwright pitched into the eighth inning and homered, helping St. Louis run its home winning streak to seven, matching its longest since 2005.

Albert Pujols contributed with his bat and glove. He hit an early two-run double, then made a leaping catch at first base in the ninth to prevent Milwaukee from tying it.

Rick Ankiel drew an extraordinary 17-pitch walk, Skip Schumaker gave the Cardinals a second homer from an unlikely source.

Wainwright (2-1) allowed one earned run and five hits in 7 2-3 innings. He also hit his third career homer, connecting for a solo shot off Carlos Villanueva (1-2).

### Rockies 10, Padres 2

At San Diego, Garrett Atkins went 4-for-5 with two RBIs and Colorado scored seven runs in the ninth inning to beat San Diego.

Troy Tulowitzki snapped out of an 0-for-20 slump with a two-run double and Clint Barmes singled in two more in the Rockies' big ninth.

Mark Redman (2-1) allowed two runs and three hits in five innings and four Rockies relievers combined to throw four hitless innings.

### **Dodgers 8, Pirates 1**

At Los Angeles, Rafael Furcal went 4-for-4 with a homer and two RBIs and James Loney extended his seasonopening hitting streak to 15 games for Los Angeles.

Brad Penny (2-2) allowed an unearned run and five hits over 5 2-3 innings for the Dodgers.

Paul Maholm (0-2) gave up six runs—four earned—and 11 hits over five innings after pitching 5 1-3 scoreless innings last Friday at San Diego. The left-hander is 0-3 against the Dodgers, allowing 17 earned runs over 23 innings in four career starts against them.

# Forbes: Yankees worth \$1.3 billion, Mets \$824 million

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The New York Yankees' value increased to \$1.306 billion over the past year, according to the annual estimates by Forbes magazine, a rice of 0 prepart over the past year.

rise of 9 percent over the past year.

The New York Mets were second at \$824 million and the Boston Red Sox third at \$816 million, the magazine said Wednesday. After that, there was a big gap to the Los Angeles Dodgers (\$694 million) and the Chicago Cubs

(\$642 million).

The Yankees were listed by Forbes as having \$327 million in revenue last year and a \$47.3 million operating loss, up from a \$25.2 million loss on revenue of \$302 million the previous year. Forbes' revenue figure is after deducting revenue sharing payments, which the Yankees estimate at about \$92 million. The team also paid approximately \$24 million in luxury

tax, which is reflected in the operating loss.

The Mets had an operating profit of \$32.9 million, according to Forbes. Boston, according to Forbes, had a \$19.1 million operating loss.

Both New York teams are planning to move into new ballparks in 2009, which should significantly increase their revenues.

At the bottom, the three teams with

the lowest values were Florida (\$256 million), Tampa Bay (\$290 million) and Pittsburgh (\$292 million). Forbes estimated the Marlins had an operating profit of \$35.6 million, the Rays \$29.7 million and the Pirates \$17.6 million.

Washington had the highest estimated operating profit at \$43.7 million. Forbes said the average operating profit in the majors was \$16 million



HILTON HEAD IS-LAND, S.C. (AP)—Often, the talk around Harbour Town Golf Links centers on Tiger Woods' latest victory, record or

streak. On Wednesday, it focused on his left knee.

On Tuesday, Woods announced on his Web site he had had arthroscopic surgery on the knee and would need at least four weeks to recover.

"I was shocked. I couldn't believe it when I heard driving in," Brandt Snedeker said Wednesday, a day before the start of the Verizon Heritage.

Snedeker finished third at the Masters last week behind champion Trevor Immelman and Woods, the world's No. 1 player.

The operation should prevent Woods from defending his title at the Wachovia

# Woods' knee talk of course

Championship in two weeks, or competing in The Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass a week after that.

"He only plays about 15 times a year anyway," Tim Clark said. "So it's not going to do a lot" to affect the PGA Tour.

Because Harbour Town follows the Masters, Woods has used this week to rest before getting ready for the U.S. Open. He has made only one appearance in the event, tying for 18th in 1999.

So golfers who do play the Verizon Heritage are typically left answering questions about some aspect of Woods' success or game.

Fred Funk, who's friendly with Woods, wondered why the world's best

player took any time off.

"I didn't know his knee was bothering him," said Funk, who splits time the PGA and Champions tours.

"I actually got two blown cartilages and I'm playing through it," Funk said, laughing. "It's a surprise. But this is just a window of opportunity for him to get it done."

Woods hasn't played like someone with a knee problem. He has won three PGA Tour titles this season and hasn't finished out of the top five in five events this year.

"He's in such great shape that you probably wouldn't know if he had a problem," Clark said.

Woods' swing coach, Hank Haney,

sat through several interviews at an outing for his International Junior Golf Academy near here in Bluffton without giving away Woods' injury.

When it comes to Woods, Haney said in describing their relationship, the coach looks not be "low maintenance but no maintenance."

Haney discussed Woods' ball-striking at the Masters, saying he was told by the player's caddie, Steve Williams, that it was the best he's ever hit the ball at Augusta National.

"He's been with him 10 years," Haney said. "So that says something."

Zach Johnson, the 2007 Masters champion, said he admired how Woods' camp kept things quiet so he

could keep competing until he was ready. "He was able to play the Masters and get his procedure done," Johnson said. "He knows what he's doing."

Aaron Baddeley, a past champion at Harbour Town, didn't expect to see high-fives in the locker room over Woods' absence. "It's a bummer that he's not out here," Baddeley said. "You always want to compete against the best because when you win, it makes it that much more special."

The PGA Tour will lose some star power with Woods' on the sideline. "He makes our product better than what it is," Johnson said. "He makes us better, as far as competition goes."

It's not all bad to have Woods' out.

"It's good for us," Snedeker said, laughing, "because now that he's taking off we've got a chance to win a couple of these."

# Chargers' Cooper suspended 4 games for drug policy violation



SAN DIEGO (AP)— Chargers inside linebacker Stephen Cooper was suspended for four games by the NFL on Tuesday for

the NFL on Tuesday fo testing positive for a banned stimulant.

Cooper, who moved into the starting lineup last season and led the Chargers with 179 tackles, said in a statement released by the team that he took a stimulant that was recently added to the NFL's list of prohibited substances.

"I regret that I mistakenly took a stimulant that I did not realize at the time was banned by the NFL," Cooper said. "I support the NFL's antidoping policies, and understand that I must serve a suspension even though the stimulant that I took was not used before any game and was not used to enhance my performance.

"I apologize to the NFL, my team, my coaches and to my fans, and I look forward to continuing to help the Chargers toward our goal of winning the Super Bowl in the upcoming season."

Neither Cooper nor his agent could immediately be reached for further comment.

While at Maine, Cooper admitted to possession of steroids after being found with about 1,000 pills in his duffel bag when the driver of an SUV he was riding in was stopped for speeding in 2002.

Cooper, who pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor drug charge, said at the time that he never took the steroids, but had been planning to use them to bulk up in hopes of making the NFL.

It's the second time since 2006 a Chargers linebacker has been suspended for violating the league's substance

abuse policy. Star outside linebacker Shawne Merriman served a four-game suspension in 2006 after testing positive for steroids.

General manager A.J. Smith said the suspension was "very disappointing."

"Coop has embarrassed himself, his family and the Chargers," Smith told The Associated Press. "He made a mistake. Some people learn from their mistakes, others do not. I do believe Stephen Cooper will learn from his and in a positive way. Only time will tell."

Smith said he didn't know what stimulant Cooper tested positive for.

Cooper's suspension begins on Saturday, Aug. 30 following the Chargers' final exhibition game. He is eligible to return to the active roster on Monday, Sept. 29 following the team's Sunday game against the Oakland Raiders.

### Saints work out deal to keep McAllister

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Saints running back Deuce McAllister, coming off the second knee surgery of his career, will remain with New Orleans for at least one more season.

A member of the team with knowledge of the contract negotiations confirmed the agreement to The Associated Press on Monday night. The person did not want to be named because the team hasn't made an official announcement.

McAllister, who was due a \$1 million roster bonus by April 15, worked out the deal that cleared the way for him to remain on the roster. McAllister is traveling out of the country and was not available for comment.

McAllister suffered his second

season-ending knee injury in three seasons during the second quarter of the team's home opener last season. He landed awkwardly after catching a short pass from Drew Brees. Although he walked off the field on his own, the Saints' all-time leading rusher missed the rest of the season.

Days later, he underwent surgery on the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee.

Five games into the 2005 season, McAllister tore his right ACL during a run at Green Bay. After reconstructive surgery, he returned to rush for 1,057 yards in 2006, helping the Saints to the NFC South title and starring in their playoff victory over Philadelphia.



# **Badminton meet opens tomorrow**

REPORTER



Badminton action returns tomorrow when the 2nd Annual

Northern Marianas Badminton Federation Doubles Tournament kicks off at the Gilbert C. Ada into Class A, B, and C. Gymnasium.

The tournament'supported in part by Michelob, MARPAC, JET Holdings, At Your Service, Nathan Clarke Matsumoto, and the Tournament Committee attracted close to 40 players in the men's and women's divisions. The players where then classified

The men's Class A division will follow a round-robin format since it may only consist of three to four pairs, while the men's and women's B and C divisions will have a double elimination round.

The tournament will be held every Saturday and Tuesday

to ioin the 2008 World Masters

Invitational Tournament from

The tournament will have

the Over-40, -45, -50, -60, and

-70 as divisions. The CNMI is

expected to send three teams in

the Over-40, -45, and -50 and

will be competing against other

Masters teams from Australia

May 10 to 14 in Guam.

only with the play dates slated on April 19, 22, 26, and 29, and May 3 and 6. A defaulting time of 15 minutes will be followed in the tournament.

The elimination round games will follow one set of race-to-31 points in both the doubles and mixed doubles events. The quarter, semis, and finals will

the Northern Mariana Islands

Veteran referee and BANMI

For more information, call

president Elias Rangamar will coach the Over-40 team, while Aguon will handle the Over-45 squad.

Referees Association vice president Arnold Mesa will call the shots for the 50-and-up team. A minimum of seven and a maximum of 12 players will be allowed in each team.

Rangamar at 664-2502 or Aguon at 234-5498 ext. 2500 or Mesa at 868-6578.

### Masters 3-on-3 caging at NMC The CNMI have been invited 7pm in three age divisions:

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



TOGAWA

and Kyung A. Yang.

gross score of 87.

**FIRST** 

From Page 44

17 and 24.

From Page 44

Basketball players 40 years old and above are invited to join a 3-on-3 masters

basketball tournament every Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

Games will be held every

score was a stroke shy of first

day leaders Bobbie Guerrero

Jones went back to the Laolao

Bay Golf Resort—this time on

its west course—for the second

round on Sunday and fired a net

74, built around a 45-42 for a

showcasing their skills on April

Students who failed in the

qualifiers can still earn slots in

the finals of the McDonald's

All-Schools in the CNMI Na-

tional Championships on May

5. The McDonald's All-Schools

The trials began on April 14

with the elementary schools of

Dandan, Garapan, Kagman,

and Tanapag joining Whisper-

ing Palms School and Calvary

Christian Academy for the pre-

liminaries in the 100m, 200m,

and 1,500m runs, long jump,

The following day, the el-

Championships is on May 10.

Terue Ukita finished second

Over-40, -45, and -50.

Interested players can become members of the team who will be joining the 2008 World Masters Invitational Tournament in Guam next month.

The local masters tournament started yesterday.

For more information, call CNMI National team coach Rufino Aguon at 234-5498 ext. 2500 at the NMC Gym.

with her two-day net score of

149, followed by Matilde Hoc-

og (150), Yang (151), and Bob-

Established in March 2007,

CWGA is a nonprofit organiza-

tion founded to promote, encour-

age, and introduce women to the

The organization intends to

accomplish the following: 1.

Promote civic and community

interest in golf; 2. Establish and

encourage competition and good

ementary schools of Kobler-

ville, Oleai, San Antonio, and

William S. Reyes, along with

Saipan Community School and

Grace Christian Academy took

the field and on Wednesday it

was the chance of the students

from Seventh Day Adventist,

Mt. Carmel School, Saipan In-

ternational School, and the ele-

mentary schools of San Vicente

and Gregorio T. Camacho to

The events for the 8- and 10-

and-under are 100m, 200m,

400m, 800m, and 1,500m runs,

4x100m and 4x400m relays, long

jump, and softball throw while

the 12-and-under will have 100m,

200m, 400m, 800m, and 1,500m

runs, 3,000m steeplechaise,

4x100m and 4x400m relays, long

jump, and javelin throw.

showcase their skills.

sport of golf in the CNMI.

bie Guerrero.

and host Guam. Basketball Association of

sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the

members and their families; 4.

Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of

CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; iudgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity.

The association was established in March 2007 with Noriko Togawa serving as president, Lou Kim as vice president, Ava Matsumoto as treasurer. Lorraine Babauta as secretary, and Terry Tudela, Bobbie Guerrero, and Dolores Yamagishi acting at directors.

## Results were not yet available

as of press time. On April 21 to 23, preliminaries in the 400m and 800m runs, 4x400m relay, softball throw, and 3,000m steeplechaise will take place. Koblerville, Mt. Carmel, San Antonio, San Vicente, WSR, and SCS will be the first schools to vie in the trials on April 21.

On April 22, Dandan, Seventh Day Adventist, Tanapag, CCA, Kagman, and GTC will compete for the day while Garapan, Oleai, GCA, WPS, and SIS are scheduled on April 23.

The preliminaries for the junior high and high schools will be held on April 17 and 24 where Hopwood Junior High School, GCA, WPS, CCA, SIS, Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, and SCS will compete in the junior high division.

The high schools of Marianas, Saipan Southern, Kagman, GCA, MBA, and SIS will be the other competing schools in the higher division.

They will compete in the 100m, 200m, 1,500m runs, discus throw, shot put, long jump, and 4x100m relay on April 17 while the following week, April 24, competitions in 400m and 800m runs, high jump, javelin throw, 4x400m relay, and 3,000m steeplechaise will be held.

L.A. Clippers 23

y-clinched division

x-clinched playoff spot

z-clinched conference

Yesterday's Games

Indiana 132, New York 123

Orlando 103, Washington 83

Dallas 111, New Orleans 98

Charlotte 115 Philadelphia 109

Minnesota 110, Milwaukee 101, OT

Detroit 84, Cleveland 74

Miami 113, Atlanta 99 Boston 105, New Jersey 94

Chicago 107, Toronto 97

Houston 93, L.A. Clippers 75

Denver 120. Memphis 111

San Antonio 109, Utah 80

Phoenix 100, Portland 91

**East Division** 

Boston

New York

**Baltimore** 

Toronto

Tampa Bay

Chicago

Kansas City 9

Seattle 126, Golden State 121

**AMERICAN LEAGUE** 

9 7

8

6

9 5

**Central Division** 

**MLB STANDINGS** 

7

9

.563

563

.533

.533

.400

643

1/2

1/2

2 1/2

59

.280

Athletes are allowed to participate in only four events and more than the specified number would disqualify the said athlete in all events that he competed in. No event will be canceled to accommodate athletes participating in two events at the same time.

### **OL'ACES**

and the 4x100m relay.

From Page 44

man provided the needed scoring support for Cruz, netting 23 and 20 points, while Marvin Rabauliman, who is Cruz's teammate in the CNMI Junior Nationals, tallied 14 more.

Pete Iguel, scoreless in the first three quarters, exploded for 10 points in the fourth period, hitting timely baskets when the Foodmakers were making a comeback.

Elmer Esdrelon, who was named the finals most valuable player of the recently concluded 2nd Annual HANMI Cup, finished with 29 points to lead the scoring for the Foodmakers.

Ryan Sanciangco, who is Esdrelon's teammate in HANMI Cup champions Fiesta-Grand Hotel, added 28 points, while Tinian's John Santos chipped in 22 more. Santos played for Ol'Aces for many years in the Budweiser Cup.

Steve Rasa scattered 10 points also for Shirley's Coffee Shop/ Blue Hauz.

The second game between Price Costco and SMF Seabridge was interrupted by a scheduled power outage after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. implemented another load shedding on Wednesday night.

Power went out at 7:10pm when the Storemasters' Ivan De Vero was about to shoot two free throws off a foul from SMF's Gary Cayetano with one minute and 18 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

SMF was also leading the Storemasters, 18-15, before Cavetano fouled De Vero.

Last Sunday, Warren Villegas scored 16 points, while Sonny Ebuen and Martin Moreno had 15 apiece to lead Bank of Saipan to a 75-72 win over the Fixers in the Masters Over-40 division.

In the second game, the Taga Warriors leaned on Elmer Pineda's 28 markers in a 95-78 triumph against CTSI/Tan Holdings Pacers.

Jun Abedes had 17 points, while Ed Cosino and Romel Dizon contributed 14 each also for the Warriors.

Ol'Aces 115 - Cruz 31, Camacho 23, F. Pelisiman 20, Rabauliman 14, P. Iguel 10, Rangamar 8, L. Iguel 4, Nedlic 3, R. Pelisiman 2.

Shirley's Coffee Shop/Blue Hauz 101 - Esdrelon 29, Sanciangco 28, Santos 22, Rasa 10, Barbo 4, Guiab 4, Marasigan 3, Mercurio 1.

Scoring by quarters: 29-34, 55-55, 81-69, 115-101.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Jess Pabula.

follow the regular scoring consisting of three-set matches of 21 points.

If the score becomes 20-all the side which first earns a twopoint lead first wins the game and if the If the score is tied at 29-all, the side scoring the 30th point shall win that game.

Regular rules of the game of badminton will be observed specially with serving where the whole shuttle should be below the server's waist at the instant of being hit by the server's racket. The waist shall be considered to be an imaginary line around

the body, level with the lowest part of the server's rib.

The shaft of the server's racket at the instant of hitting shall be pointing in a downward direction.

The server shall not serve before the receiver is ready. However, the receiver shall be considered to have been ready if a return of the service is attempted.

In doubles, during the delivery of service, the partner may take up any position within their respective courts, which do not distract the opposing server or receiver.

4 1/2

4 1/2

1

2 1/2

1 1/2

2 1/2

5 1/2

1 1/2

2 1/2

4

5

3

4

4 1/2

5 1/2

### TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES 8 .467 2 1/2 **NBA STANDINGS (FINAL)** Cleveland 10 .333 Detroit 10 .333 **EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division West Division** W L Los Angeles 9 .563 805 z-Boston 66 16 **Oakland** .563 x-Toronto 41 41 .500 25 Seattle 8 .500 x-Philadelphia 40 42 .488 26 9 .400 34 415 New Jersey 48 32 23 59 43 New York .280 **NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division Southeast Division** .643 Florida y-Orlando 52 30 .634 New York 6 .538 x-Washington 43 39 .524 Philadelphia 8 .467 37 45 451 15 x-Atlanta 9 Atlanta .357 32 50 .390 20 Charlotte 11 Washington .267 Miami 15 67 .183 **Central Division Central Division** .733 St. Louis 11 4 y-Detroit 59 23 .720 Chicago 5 .643 14 45 549 x-Cleveland 37 Milwaukee 8 6 .571 .439 23 Indiana 36 46 .467 Pittsburah 7 8 Chicago 33 49 .402 26 Cincinnati 6 9 .400 26 56 317 Milwaukee 9 .400 **WESTERN CONFERENCE West Division Southwest Division** Arizona 11 .733 y-New Orleans 56 .533 San Diego 7 8 x-San Antonio 56 26 .683 -1 Los Angeles 7 8 .467 55 671 x-Houston 27 8 Colorado .429 51 31 .622 5 x-Dallas San Francisco 6 10 .375 Memphis 22 60 .268 Yesterday's Games **Northwest Division** Arizona 4. San Francisco 1 y-Utah 54 28 .659 Houston 2, Philadelphia 1 x-Denver 50 610 32 Florida 6, Atlanta 5 41 .500 13 **Portland** 41 N.Y. Mets 5, Washington 2 Minnesota 22 60 .268 32 Chicago Cubs 12, Cincinnati 3 62 Seattle 20 244 St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 4 Colorado 10. San Diego 2 **Pacific Division** L.A. Dodgers 8, Pittsburgh 1 z-L.A. Lakers 57 25 695 N.Y. Yankees 15, Boston 9 .671 x-Phoenix 55 27 Detroit 13, Cleveland 2 Golden State 48 34 .585 Chicago White Sox 3, Baltimore 1 38 463 Sacramento 44 19

### **LOCAL SCORES**

Texas 7, Toronto 5, 14 innings

Minnesota 6. Tampa Bay 5

Kansas City 3, L.A. Angels 2

Seattle 4, Oakland 2

### **Little League Standings** Majors **Patriots**

UTACES	Ö	- 1
Red Sox	8	2
Survivors	7	2
Hustlers I	6	1
Dragons	6	3
Dolphins	6	3
Braves	5	4
Twins	4	6
Pirates	3	5
Athletics	2	6
McDonald's	2	6
Hustlers II	1	5
Dare JPO's	1	7
Lions	0	7
Suns	0	8

### **FMI Standings**

Ol'Aces	3	0
Advance X-Terminators	2	0
GEC Pawnship	2	1
Shirley's Coffee Shop	2	2
TASI Tours Giants	1	2
Price Costco	1	1
Starwater	0	1
MIGS	0	2

0 2

SMF-Seabridge

# 58 netters join Junior Championships

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



A total of 58 junior netters signed up for the 2008 Spectrum Electric Inc.-Marianas Medical

Center CNMI Junior Tennis Championships, which begins tomorrow at the American Memorial Park courts.

Points will be at stake in the two weekend tournament as participants will get 1 1/2 times the points for the CNMI Junior rankings in time for the International Tennis Federation-North Pacific Qualifying event on Guam in June.

Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Tournament men's and women's champions Ji Hoon Heo and Thea Minor lead the list of participants in the boys' and girls' 18-andunder divisions.

Joseph Jang, Andy Nutting, Russell Buenaventura, Calvin Yang, Woo Suk Chang, and



From left, Daniel Camacho, Christian Miller, Nathan Nutting, and Rafael Jones pose for a group picture in the award ceremony of the Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Tournament on April 6. All four will see action in this weekend's 2008 Spectrum Electric Inc.-Marianas Medical Center CNMI Junior Tennis Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Heo's title bid, while out to challenge Minor in the girls division are Dina Jones, Jodel Fernandez, Kisses Aquino, Mayuko Arriola, and Lila Mailman.

Chris Cajigan will try to maintain his hold of the 9-andunder crown as he battles Jayson Gamboa, Morris Villanueva, Elnathan Wong, Evzen Pabellon, Carl Dela Cruz, Steven Goodwin, Raj Ramnani, Michael Jones, Luther Lizama, and Colin Ramsey.

Emily Jones will renew her rivalry with Tammy Ackerman, Julia Ishikawa, and Liza Atalig for the girls' 9-and-under crown. Others in the age group are Catherine Atalig and Carol Lee.

Christian Miller will have a tough time in the boys' 13and-under division as it has the most number of participants with 19 other players contending for the title.

Joining Miller in the division are Adriane De Luna, Daniel

James Camacho will try to foil Camacho, Jake Lee, Aaron Lee, Andrew Johnson, Clay Mc-Cullough-Stearns, Kevin yang, Joel Jang, R.J. Aquino, Thomas Lim, Nathan Nutting, brothers Rafael and Angelo Jones, Lucas Nutting, Quintin Ramsey, Tommy Choi, Dylan Ackerman, Bill Song, and Rovil Florencio.

> Playing in the girls' 13and-under division are Amy Arenovski, Ilia Corella, Theecel Minor, Adele Hudkins, Alina Ishikawa, Jeane Bracken, Neghar Rastguiy, and Minori Yoshida.

> The first two days of the tournament will be played on April 19 and 20, while the final leg will be on April 26 and 27.

A 15-minute default time will be in effect after every scheduled match and players are allowed to have a five-minute warm before the game. A 10-minute break will be followed between the second and third sets.

Parents are also not allowed inside their children's court or coach them during their matches.

# Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby casts away tomorrow



Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby will set sail tomorrow, April 19,

from Smiling Cove Marina.

Organizers said that between 30 to 40 boats and over 100 an-

glers from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are expected to take part in the 2008 edition of the event.

Trolling will be employed as the type of fishing for the event, where top prizes in five different categories are at stake. First to fifth place finishers will be recognized in the mahi category.

The one-day 2008 edition of the Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby will start promptly at 6am and will conclude at 5pm the same day. Event organizers are reminding participants that no

catch could be weighed in and entered after the 5pm deadline.

The registration fee is \$100 for one captain and three crewmen with \$25 assessed for each additional angler.

Pre-registration is set for today, April 18, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at the Smiling Cove Marina (weighing station).

Derby officials from the Saipan Fishermen's Association will briefly explain the rules and regulations of the competition.

Interested applicants may pick up the 2008 Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby registration forms at the Marianas Visitors Authority, Best Fishing, and the Fishing Tackle.

The boat, captained by Lolito Donaire with angler Errol Moises, caught a 24.75-lb. monster mahi to collect the \$1,500 cash purse.

The St. Patrick had the second biggest fish of the derby, as captain Tony Maestro and angler Manding Legaspi unloaded a 24.35-lb. mah-mahi



сонтвитер рното
The 4th Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby set for April 19 in the waters surrounding the Northern Marianas

For more information about the 4th Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby, please contact Frank Tudela at MVA at (670) 664-3200/01 or via e-mail at ftudela@mymarianas.com.

Last year, the crew of the San Juan II reeled in the biggest fish of the 3rd Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby.

at the Smiling Cove Marina. Maestro and Legaspi collected \$1,000 for all their troubles.

Third place went to the crew of Another Girl who reeled in a 22.9-pounder for the \$500 third place purse. The boat was captained by Sheldon Fernandez and its angler was Ben Tabin. (Mark Rabago)

# Support for CNMI Men continues

By BRAD E. RUSZALA



Ten days remain before the CNMI

Men's National Football Team challenges its counterpart from Guam in the 2nd Annual Marianas Cup, and this year's edition of the Blue Ayuyus received some much needed support along the way from one of Korea's longtime athletic sponsors.

After hearing of the local team's efforts on the pitch, Sejoong Tour Mall Saipan Branch director/ manager Choi Kyung-Sil decided to assist the players in advance of their game against Guam by outfitting the men with uniforms and shorts.

Choi said that her company regularly supports soccer teams in Korea and that she had been looking for a way to sponsor one of Saipan's local teams. When she heard about the CNMI's up-and-coming national team, she stopped by one of the practices and was surprised with what she saw.

"I saw the CNMI team wearing old dirty shirts and I wanted to help by donating," she said.

The donation marked Sejoong Tour Mall's first donation on Saipan, and Choi picked the bright yellow Team Brazil uniforms for the CNMI "to bring sunshine into their game."

Team CNMI was appreciative of the donation and the players have regularly donned the new uniforms during team practices. Choi said that she was happy to help and that she and Sejoong Tour Mall look forward to supporting more area soccer teams

in the future.

"The same team or another team, no problem," she said.

Last year, football fans from across the world watched as Team CNMI came within one goal of beating the FIFA-ranked Guamanians. The visitors escaped with a 3-2 victory at the Oleai Sports Complex, but the men from Saipan were unable to find similar success a week later, as Guam rebounded with a 9-0 victory on its home field to take the inaugural Marianas Cup.

The second edition of the Marianas Cup takes place at the Oleai Sports Complex two Sundays from now on April 27 beginning at 3pm, with pre-game activities getting underway at 2:45pm. Attendance is free and organizers invite the community to provide the same crowd support that last year's team enjoyed.

# 2008 NMC Foundation Open on April 26

By MARK RABAGO mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR



The second "major" golf tournament in the Commonwealth is set to tee off two

Saturdays from now on April 26 when the 6th Annual NMC Foundation Open is played at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

According to organizers, the 2008 editor of the tournament will adopt a medal play format and will utilize a special double Peoria on all men's flights.

In addition to first, second, and third place prizes for the flights, the tournament will include hole-in-one prizes.

The lucky golfer who makes a hole-in-one shot has a chance at winning a 2008 Mazda 3,

courtesy of Triple J; or \$25,000 the Saipan Grand Hotel as well in cash from Bank of Hawaii; or another \$25,000 in cash from AON Insurance; or a \$5,000 cash prize courtesy of Century Insurance.

The tournament will have a shotgun start of 7am. Proceeds from the 6th Annual NMC Foundation Open will go toward the needs of the islands' lone tertiary institution.

Entry fee is \$85 per player which goes up to \$100 after April 19. Interested players are invited to join their family, friends, and playing partners for a "fantastic day of fun and fundraising for a good cause," according to organizers.

The evening before the tournament, organizers of the 6th Annual NMC Foundation Open will hold a special sponsors cocktail party at the Club V of as post-tournament banquet for players at the Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside on game day.

For registration information, contact Mark Mendiola at 234-5498 ext. 1050 or visit Triple J Motors, NMC cashier's window, or the Laolao Bay Golf Resort to sign up.

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds and support the Northern Marianas College, Saipan's lone post-secondary educational institution. It is made up of individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the utmost support in pursuing their educational goals.

Last April 5, the 2008 HAN-MI Charity Golf Tournament was held at the Marianas Coun-



58 netters join Junior **Championships** 

A total of 58 junior netters signed up for the 2008 Spectrum Electric Inc.-Marianas Medical Center CNMI Junior

Tennis Championships, which begins tomorrow.

Saipan Tribune Sports

### **Pacers beat Knicks** in possible Thomas swan song

The Indiana Pacers beat New York 132-123 in the NBA on Wednesday, sending the Knicks to a franchise record-tying 59th loss in what might have been Isiah Thomas' last game as coach.



**44** FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Falig homer lifts Braves past Twins

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

.J. Falig homered in the first inning to lift the Tanapag Braves to a 15-1 win over the As Matuis Twins in their game in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League yesterday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

The Tanapag Braves took more than two hours to silence the Wells Fargo-sponsored Twins.

Falig went 2-for-2 with two runs

scored and four RBIs. He blasted a three-run home run in the Twins' six-run first inning scoring spree.



Frankie Lieto pitched two shutout innings in relief to help the AA Enterprises- and TCC World-supported Twins notch its fifth win in nine game, while the Twins dropped to 4-6 with the loss.

Lieto relieved Roy Tudela in the top of the third and nearly gave the Twins a chance to come back into the game.

After getting the quick two outs after striking out Alex Litulumar and forcing Roke Tenorio to fly out to center fielder B.J. Falig, Lieto gave up backto-back singles to Ian Lizama and Ton



JON PEREZ
Tanapag Braves pitcher Frankie Lieto throws to Alex Litulumar in their game against the As Matuis Twins in the Majors division of the Sainan Little League vectorday at the Missel Base "To Compare" To Compare T the Saipan Little League yesterday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Camacho then walked Roberty Tudela to load up the bases.

Lieto then forced M.J. Sakisat to a grounder to third baseman Haime Blas, who grabbed the ball and stepped on the bag for a force out that allowed them to escape a bases-loaded jam to end the inning.

Lieto then snuffed out the Twins chances to score in the bottom of the fourth. He stranded runner Darion Jones, who walked, at first base when he forced Charles Cangco to an infield fly to second baseman Lucio Kalen for the first out then struck out Jason Camacho on three pitches.

Alex Litulumar then was caught looking for the third strike and the third out that ended the game.

Roy Tudela started for the Braves, giving up one earned run on two onehit innings with four strikeouts and two walks.

Falig got plenty of support from Ricky Joe Rengill and Nick Junior Jones who both went 3-for-3 with six runs and two doubles. Rengiil also had three stolen bases and one RBI while Jones had two RBIs.

Kalen went 2-for-2 with three runs and an RBI, while J.J. Lifoifoi went 2-for-3 with one run and had two RBIs.

Lefty pitcher Jones scored the Twins' lone run on an error by the Braves in

# Ol'Aces hand Shirley's second loss

By JON PEREZ



Ol'Aces had all of its five starters finish in double figures in beating Shirley's Coffee Shop/Blue

Hauz, 115-101, in Wednesday's game in the FMI Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win was the third straight for Ol'Aces, which is powered by current and former CNMI National youth and men's players, to break away from a two-way tie with the Advance X-Terminators (2-0).

It was the Foodmakers' second consecutive loss after a 2-0 start dropping their record to an even 2-2 card. Shirley's first loss was a 112-115 setback against the X-Terminators on April 9.

CNMI Junior Nationals standout Jericho Cruz spearheaded Ol'Aces' offensive might, scoring 18 of his game-high 31 points in the second half to help his team snap out of a 55-all deadlock at halftime.

Abong Camacho and Fred Pelis-See OL'ACES on Page 42

# Togawa, Jones win annual CWGA tourney

By MARK RABAGO

mark rabago@saipantribune.com



Noriko Togawa and Shirlyn Jones topped the CNMI Women's Golf **Association Members** Annual Two-Day Golf

the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Togawa topped the competition based

on gross scores, while Jones was without peer in the net scores department.

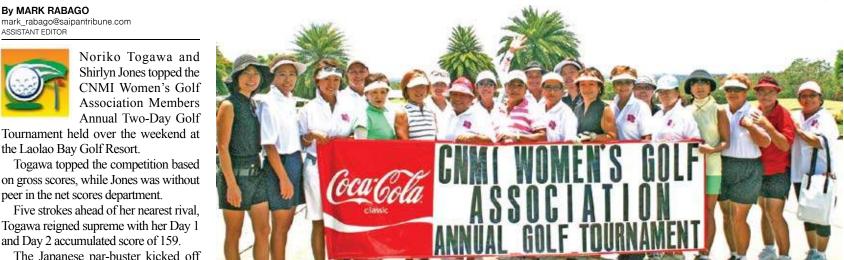
Five strokes ahead of her nearest rival, Togawa reigned supreme with her Day 1 and Day 2 accumulated score of 159.

The Japanese par-buster kicked off her campaign with an 82 following a 42 in the front and a 40 in the back last Saturday. She solidified her stranglehold of first place with a superb 77 on Sunday following an 18-hole performance of 40 and 37. She finished the event with an average gross of 79.5.

Shiori Onoue finished second to the CWGA president with her 164, followed by Terry Tudela's 167, Kim Yang's 168, and Yuko Togawa's 178.

Jones, for her part, finished the Saturday and Sunday affair at the Kagman golf venue with a net score of 147, which translates to an average of 73.5.

She shot identical 43s in the front and back nines of the east course on Saturday to finish with a gross score of 86, which after her USGA handicap of 13 was deducted gave her a 73. The See TOGAWA on Page 42



The 21 participants of the CNMI Women's Golf Association Members Annual Two-Day Golf Tournament pose for a group photo.



Participants in the 12-and-under division compete in the qualifying trials for next month's McDonald's All-Schools Championships. Northern Marianas Athletics held the trials from April 14 to 17 at the Oleai Track and Field facility inside the Susupe Sports Complex.

## First leg of All-Schools qualifiers in the bag

By JON PEREZ jon\_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



The first leg of the preliminary trials for next month's 4th Annual McDonald's All-Schools Track and Field Championship ended on Wednesday with the 12-and-under division taking center stage at the Oleai

track facility inside the Susupe Sports Complex.

Organized by the Northern Marianas Athletics the qualifiers are held in the 8-, 10-, and 12-and-under divisions from April 14 to 16 with the older age group See FIRST on Page 42